

**Regional Church Board Meeting**  
**November 5, 2022**  
**Opening Prayer and Pam's Words to the Regional Church Board**

**Opening Prayer**

Good and Gracious God,  
We bring our attention to your artistry  
In creation and all its beauty  
Especially in this season where we see changes  
Where trees with their luscious green leaves  
Turn red, orange and yellow  
And then . . . with the wind  
They let go to make space for rest  
growth in ways we cannot see  
To soon bring forth new life  
When we pay attention,  
Your work is full of awe and wonder

Holy One, we gather here today in awe and wonder  
Of your work through us  
As we covenant to bring love and mercy  
To this beauty around us  
This time in the life of the church  
Is a season of change  
Help us not to hold on, but to let go to make space for new life to grow  
In our hearts and in our communities  
Life full of your love and grace and justice and hope  
To share with the vulnerable in our midst.

Gathered as leaders for the Disciples in Oklahoma  
Pour your Spirit upon us  
Fill us anew  
Focused on the beauty of this season  
Let us listen for your guidance  
To make faithful decisions as disciples of Christ  
Help us to trust this season planting new seeds  
that in turning to the next season  
will surely bring forth  
New life for all, for all.  
We wait with awe and wonder to see your work within us.  
Amen.

## **Pam's Words**

I am deeply grateful for all the ministries that are taking place in the Oklahoma Region that are not only supporting the local congregation, the Region, but also the ways that we are engaging with the larger church. We do not do this difficult, transforming work in isolation, but together with the grace of God.

I want to say a few words about our clergy, who have endured the most difficult of times over the last three years — a global pandemic, political unrest, and systemic upheaval. Every one of our clergy deserve recognition for their resilience, their creativity, their steadfast persistence, and their love and grace, even in the most difficult situations. Thank you, clergy.

I also want to speak a moment about our congregations. Many are doing well. Some quite well. Some are maintaining. Some are struggling. Some are vulnerable. Our most vulnerable are those who have no vision or focus. They tend to be in communities that are declining as a whole. They tend to have mostly elderly people. They typically are not interested in calling a disciples minister but rather someone local in the community that just happens to be available. While they desire a minister to live locally and serve, they cannot pay a livable salary and there is no affordable or acceptable housing. Since the COVID pandemic began, the search & call system has limited candidates, and clergy are not moving to Oklahoma (because of economics, politics, salary, education, capital punishment, abortion, etc.)

We are called to do this work, this ministry, not in isolation, but together. And in this day and age, we might need to be helping our sister congregations by holding out our hands for our vulnerable siblings to grasp. We, as a Regional Board, need to have a clear vision, staying focused and steadfast for the days ahead.

There are a lot of ways to measure good works among us. One is by dollars. The Oklahoma giving to DMF is up for 2022 thanks to congregational giving. A small piece of this generosity comes from a couple of our congregations who closed and upon the sale of their building gave 10% of the sale to DMF to close the covenant. Another piece is from congregations who have not given to DMF before, and this year have made generous contributions. Another measurement is by attendance, which is not going so well. Numbers of dollars and people are kept these days by congregations inputting weekly or monthly into ALEX, rather than an annual Yearbook and Directory form. Just over 50% of congregations, denominational wide, are utilizing this system, so we really have bad numbers. Another measurement is by Michael Davison's and my visits to congregations and by capturing glimpses of ministries each congregation is doing. We try to push that out for all to see on our website, in our Annual Fund campaign, and in our newsletters for all to share in the joy of serving like Jesus.

My Favorite Things in 2022:

Regional Assembly

Clergy have been gathering inperson again!

For Retreats. For clergy meetings. For Top Golf or Pickleball.

Tulsa Yale Avenue has a new ministry called the Village Fosters

And Disciples Bartlesville has become another chapter of The Village Fosters.

Youth groups from Crown Heights, New Covenant, and Western Oaks are meeting together!

Iglesia Cristiana de El Shaddai in Enid has called a new minister.

Colton Lott and Kelsey Cobbs got married!

We're doing good. We can always do better. And I believe we will, with God's help. I am honored to work alongside our staff, and especially with my colleague, Michael. And I continue to be grateful to serve as your Regional Minister, and hope and pray you'll still have me!

### **Pamela Holt - Regional Board Report**

**November 14, 2021 - November 5, 2022**

#### **Sunday Morning Worships from**

#### **November 14, 2021 - November 5, 2022**

11.21.21 Weatherford Federated Farewell to David Wheeler

11.28.21 Yukon West Point Installation of Jann Osborn

12.05.21 Enid Central Preach

12.12.21 Glen Davis died

12.19.21 RO closed

12.26.21 RO closed

2022

01.02.22 Edmond SHCC

01.03.22 Leslie Martin Funeral

01.09.22 Stillwater FCC Installation of Sandra Ladd

01.16.22 OKC East Sixth Street & Wildewood

01.23.22 Norman FCC Commissioning of Karen Hess

01.30.22 Ponca City Commissioning and installation of Tom Howard

02.06.22 Chickasha FCC

02.13.22 OKC New Covenant CC & General Board meeting

02.20.22 OKC Memorial CC Retirement of Ralph Ranney & PTS Board Meeting

02.27.22 Sulphur FCC upon the death of Tim Kowalski

03.06.22 Mary McCutchen died

03.13.22 Pauls Valley FCC

03.20.22 Topeka KS FCC Paxton Jones

03.27.22 OKC New Covenant worship & Elder training

04.03.22 Norman FCC Youth Sunday

04.10.22 Palm Sunday: Norman FCC & El Reno

04.15.22 Good Friday: Chickasha FCC

04.17.22 Easter: Edmond FCC

04.24.22 Bartlesville FCC Last Sunday

05.01.22 Wildewood CC 50th Anniversary

05.08.22 OKC New Covenant Installation of Davis Wheeler

05.15.22 Anadarko FCC

05.22.22 Norman FCC Baptisms  
05.29.22 Nowata FCC Preach & Baby Dedication & met with family of Ralph Ranney  
06.05.22 Broken Arrow FCC Installation of Shane Hickey  
06.12.22 Weatherford Federated Allison Longman's last Sunday  
06.19.22 Sanger Horse Makeover  
06.26.22 Vacation  
07.03.22 Vacation  
07.10.22 Perry FCC Preach  
07.17.22 Arnett FCC preach  
07.24.22 FW College of Regional Ministers  
07.31.22 Lawton FCC  
08.07.22 FW UCC  
08.14.22 Edmond SHCC  
08.21.22 Bethany Village CC  
08.28.22 Bartlesville Disciples Preach  
09.04.22 Norman FCC  
09.11.22 Duncan FCC Installation of John Wheeler  
09.18.22 Moore FCC Welcome of Doug Richardson  
09.25.22 Tulsa Yale Avenue Farewell to Sei Touthang  
10.02.22 Weatherford Federated Preach &  
OKC Regional Office: Service of Remembrance & Hope for demolition of FCC  
10.09.22 Sanger Horse Harmony  
10.16.22 OKC Crown Heights  
10.23.22 Mustang CC Farewell to Randy Martin  
10.30.22 Midwest City FCC

### **Weddings**

Colton Lott & Kelsey Cobbs

### **Ordinations**

Nancy Hodgkinson at Edmond SHCC

### **Installations**

Jann Osborn  
Sondra Ladd  
David Wheeler  
Shane Hickey  
Stephen Johnson (Michael)  
Vera Porter (Michael)  
Alexis Villafane Engelbrecht (Michael)

### **Planned and/or Attended Funeral Services for Clergy**

Ralph Alexander  
Glenn Davis  
*Christine Clifton, wife of Michael Clifton*  
*Leslie Martin, wife of Randy Martin*  
Daniel French  
Marty McCutchen  
Tim Kowalski  
Dorothy Davis  
Joe Jones  
Bonnie Frazier & Roger Barnes & John Boaz (did not attend)

**Ecumenical Work**

Oklahoma Conference of Churches Council of Communion Leaders  
Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty Annual Dinner

**Teaching**

Caring in Crisis for Church World Service  
Healthy Boundaries for OK  
Search & Call for Brite Ministers' Week

**Search & Call**

Hobart FCC - Holding their own  
Anadarko FCC - non-Disciples minister  
Duncan FCC - called John Wheeler  
OKC New Covenant - called David Wheeler  
Weatherford Federated - called Kelsey Cobbs  
Moore FCC - called Doug Richardson  
Mustang CC - pulpit supply

**Board & General Church Meetings Attended**

General Board, online  
College of Regional Ministers, bi-weekly online and in-person in August  
Phillips Theological Seminary  
Center for Ministry & Lay Training @ PTS  
Retreat with PTS & College members for Comity area  
General Commission on Ministry - Serve as Chair  
Oklahoma Disciples Foundation  
2022 Regional Assembly  
Attended Dinner for Retirement of Dr. Newell Williams, President of Brite Divinity School

**Education**

PTS Remind & Renew  
TCU/Brite Ministers' Week  
Kirkpatrick Visions of Wholeness  
Festival of Homiletics online  
2 Horse Clinics about leadership & harmony

**Closing Congregations**

Bartlesville FCC

**Other Administrative Responsibilities & Leadership**

Pastoral Care with Clergy  
Provide Staff Oversight  
Process Invoices and have delegated to Carrie  
EFileCabinet - digitizing all our files  
Work Closely w/Commission on Clergy, Commission on Worship; Commission on Learning  
Planned and implemented 2022 Regional Assembly in Tulsa  
Regional Board Meetings  
Executive Committee meetings  
Central & SWA Clergy Meetings  
National Convocation and Oklahoma Convocation

**Rest & Renewal Time**

Vacation June 25 - July 9, 2022 Pagosa Springs, Colorado

**Self-Care**

Walk 2-3 miles 5 days a week

Jump rope semi-regularly

Ranch work is never ending and very cathartic

Read a variety of books

Travel to see our children & grandson

Play with my horses