The Rev. Dr. Teresa Dulyea-Parker
Regional Minister and President for the
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin
and, the Christian Church Michigan Region.

“We are all just walking each other home.”

Teresa was raised up in First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Muskegon, MI. She was ordained by the congregation and the Christian Church Michigan Region in 1982. In over 39 years of ordained ministry she has served congregations in Indiana, Oregon, Michigan and Ohio. The last eleven years as Regional Minister in Illinois and Wisconsin. Starting Jan. 1, 2022, she also serves as RM for Michigan Disciples.

She earned her undergraduate degree in Economics from Western Michigan University, and her Master of Divinity degree from Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. She also has a Doctor of Ministry degree from Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit, with an emphasis on “Spirituality in Community.”

She is also ex-officio Trustee for the Disciples Divinity House of UChicago.

Teresa is chief “story-teller” for our regions. She has a passion for congregational life. She believes “it is in the church as a graceful community that lifelong transformation occurs. We become caring communities: exhibiting hospitality, encouraging quests, reflecting on scripture, discerning gifts, struggling with trust, healing souls, and providing opportunities for service. Through these experiences we grow more deeply in our connection to God and to one another, so that we are prepared to confront the sometimes brutal realities that plague our world. We are here to represent a different way of being in the world, and in this way fulfill God’s healing/salvific purposes.”

Teresa’s ministry with us is funded by our gifts to Disciples Mission Fund, our Regional Annual Funds and the Christmas Offering.
Rev. Dr. Alex Ruth grew up in various Christian traditions, which helps him celebrate the diversity of our faith. Alex first felt the call to ministry while working as staff at a summer camp but was hesitant to relinquish himself to that calling until later in life. Alex and his wife first encountered the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) when they began seeking a church home as they anticipated starting a family. Becoming ever more involved in his faith and the local church reignited Alex’s call to ministry. He earned a Masters of Divinity from Phillips Theological Seminary in 2006 and a Doctorate of Ministry in Congregational Leadership from Bethel Seminary in 2016. Alex also holds certifications in leadership coaching and uses the coaching model to help clergy and congregations to discern their calling and strive to follow God’s leading.

Alex joined the Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin as the Associate Regional Minister for Transformation in November of 2021. He is excited to work with clergy and congregations in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Michigan as we strive for individual, congregational, and community-wide transformation. Alex also serves as the Associate Director of Disciples Men and teaches with the Center for Ministry and Lay Training at Phillips Theological Seminary.

Alex is married to his high-school sweetheart, Jennie. Together they have two adult children, Mason and Kaia. Alex and Jennie enjoy spending time together cooking, camping, hiking, and canoeing/kayaking. They have two dogs and three cats of their own and live with one of their grandpups. Alex has a wide range of hobbies, including woodworking, cycling, running, swimming, and hunting. One of his favorite passages of scripture is Psalm 1:1-3, “Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on God’s law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.”
Eli Rolón Jeong grew up in a multicultural home in Puerto Rico eating kimchi and tostones before the fusion foods craze would overtake hipster restaurants and food trucks. His family relocated to Chicago where Eli spent his formative years. After high school, Eli earned a BS in Computer Science from the University of Illinois at Chicago. While in college, Eli found a spiritual home at Iglesia del Pueblo, a multicultural Disciples church in Hammond, IN that would eventually springboard him into a life of ministry.

After college, Eli spent nearly half a decade in the business world managing corporate accounts and retail centers while also planning to enroll in a business graduate program. However, dissatisfied with his current work environment and discerning a new vocational call, Eli quit his job to pursue graduate studies in theology and ministry instead. Eli earned his MDiv from Vanderbilt Divinity School and then an MA in Ethics from Iliff School of Theology.

Eli was ordained in December 2014 by the Central Rocky Mountain Region at South Broadway Christian Church in Denver. Prior to joining CCIW, Eli served as Director of Programs and Technology for Higher Education and Leadership Ministries (HELM) for over three years. In that capacity, Eli worked to nurture and develop Disciples leaders through programs such as the HELM Leadership Fellows for college students, the Seminarians Conference, the Doctoral Scholarships Program, and the Disciples Leadership Institute for young adults. Throughout the years, Eli has also held numerous leadership roles in local Disciples congregations and ministries in Indiana, Nashville, Denver, Chicago, and Southern California. He is a former board member of the Disciples’ General Board and recently concluded his tenure as a director for the Christian Board of Publication. Eli is also part of the Constructive Theologies Project, a group of young adult Disciples thought leaders whose work focuses on matters at the intersection of theology and race. Their work can be found at www.constructivetheologies.org.

Eli embraces the identity of a public theological educator. He is motivated by and committed to the idea of developing our collective sense of theological knowledge in ways that are meaningful and accessible and embraces the possibilities for expressing such theological ideas in our everyday practices. Eli is also committed to working with young folks (and not so young folks) in our region to cultivate a level of curiosity that would motivate us to deeply explore what it means to be Christian and to be part of different communities.

Eli lives in Chicago and spends most of his time outside of work exploring food, coffee, and arts with his partner, Milly. He enjoys live music and is steadily increasing his record collection.
Angelique Byrd describes herself as someone who aspires to do the work of the Lord by using her gifts to further advance the Kingdom of God.

Angelique is a versatile marketing professional with over 25 years of marketing experience. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Advertising from the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana and a Master of Science Degree in Marketing Communications from Roosevelt University. Although she has been in Corporate America for the majority of her career, having been called to carry out God’s will with The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin has become the most fulfilling.

Angelique was granted a Commission on June 6, 2018. As the Regional Director of the Communications Ministry, one of Angelique’s responsibilities will be promoting, gathering and making our “Good News” stories available to CCIW and the world. It has been said that The Disciples of Christ is the world’s best kept secret. Well, it’s our goal to let the world know of the good work that God is doing through CCIW!

Angelique resides in Bolingbrook, Illinois and has three amazing children: Alexis, Darius and Donovan. Her kids keep her busy attending their sports events. You will find her in the stands at many football and basketball games or on the phone discussing the latest fashion trends with her daughter.