

## Feeling confident?

Many of us over the age of 50 (and that's the majority of us in most Disciples congregations) are very concerned that the message and work of Jesus lives on. It has brought sanity and serenity to many of us, benefitted the poor, the oppressed and the stranger, and made possible huge advances in human history such as the abolition of slavery and recognition of women's rights in the U.S.

Some of us still believe that we Disciples of Christ, part of a movement for wholeness, offer a model for how to be the hands and feet of Jesus in what is shaping up to be a very complex and continually changing future. We need new ways to tell and to become the Good News today.

How will we get from where we are to a place and time when young adult Disciples of Christ are leading creatively, faithfully, and confidently, working together across boundaries that might divide other Christians?

Answers that work best will be discerned *together*. That's why we care about a regional ministry that serves and supports our congregations more effectively. Let's talk, listen, and share!



For the sake of the Gospel and for the young adults who will live it and shape the future of the Church . . .

Our first conversation about what we need from a regional partnership will begin:

When: \_\_\_\_\_

Where: \_\_\_\_\_

Leader(s): \_\_\_\_\_

More information is on-line at:

<http://www.mid-america-disciples.org/special-events/2014/9/5/restructure>

About these  
Conversations  
concerning  
regional  
restructure . . .



. . . And I care,

WHY?



# Fair Question!

Truth is, few things can make the eyes glaze over among more Disciples than a conversation about restructuring a region.

Perhaps a better question might be:

Where will our congregations be if over the next 20 years we all keep doing what has worked for the past 70 years?

If we are informed about changes in the culture and in the priorities of adults under age 40 the most likely answer is:

Our congregation will not exist!

# Seventy years ago:

- There was no Internet , no smart phones, no personal computers
- If, as a young adult , you had questions about God or the Bible you might talk first with a friend or spouse, then with a pastor or Sunday School teacher
- The majority of your friends went to worship most weekends
- Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings were reserved for church
- Families could afford for Mom to stay at home and she volunteered many hours a week at church which structured events around her time
- Loyalty to a particular congregation and/or denomination was high
- Being a good Christian for many meant believing the right things and behaving morally



# Today:

- Teenagers with smart phones and a data plan can find within seconds up-to-date information on any spiritual topic; some of it good
- Those seeking a church search first on-line. If they like what they see, they text their friends. If they don't like what they see, they text, Tweet, and post on Facebook
- 32% of those surveyed ages 18-35 report no religious affiliation. (up from 30% last year)
- Many young couples work two or more jobs, drive kids to activities and school functions all week and sleep in Sunday
- Among many young adults, following Jesus means engaging in missions that change communities, seeking meaning rather than facts from the Bible, and avoiding unproductive meetings when a good conversation will do.

