



Online Ministry & Priesthood Classes

Center for Innovation in Ministry and Mission (CIMM)

To enroll or for more information on these classes and the certificate programs, visit graceland.edu/CIMM. Cost is \$25 unless noted.

March 2 – April 26

- **Introduction to Priesthood Ministry**
- **Ministry of the Teacher** – David Lloyd
- **Ministry of the Seventy** – Bethany Lloyd
- **Ministry of the Bishop** – Carla Long
- Christian Ministry Cert. **Introduction to New Testament** - Tony & Charmaine Chvala-Smith (\$100)

CIMM Sessions are short seminars on topics of theology, culture, and Community of Christ Identity, Mission, Message, Beliefs and practices.

These free sessions are broadcast live on **Zoom at 7:00pm most Wednesdays**. To register, visit www.graceland.edu/cimmsessions.

- Feb 4 – **Called to Question: The Story of CofC Theology part 7**, Tony & Charmaine Chvala-Smith
- Feb 11 – **CofC Scripture: Editing Cannon**, David Howlett
- Feb 18 – **Called to Question: The Story of CofC Theology part 8**, Tony & Charmaine Chvala-Smith
- Feb 25 – **Lenten Practices**, Tyler Marz/Karin Peter



Midlands Mission Center

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MMC Spring Conference

Save the date **April 24-26** for a mission center retreat at Chihowa culminating with spring conference on Sunday, April 26.

Summer 2026

June 5–16 Caravan	July 12–19 Spectacular
June 18–22 Doniphan Family Camp	July 12–17 MITOG
June 28–July 3 Junior/Middle School Camp	July 23–25 Youth Quest
July 5–10 Chihowa Family Camp	

CARAVAN 2026

We Are One in the Spirit!

Students who have completed grades 9–12 are invited on this 12-day quest to immerse ourselves in our Enduring Principles as we journey. We will spend the first half of our trip visiting Nauvoo, Kirtland, and the Sacred Grove in Palmyra learning about our Church history and where we came from. The second half of this exciting expedition will include exploring who we are as a faith community today and what we as disciples can do to live the Enduring Principles as we move into the future. We will visit the National Mall and the Smithsonian museums in Washington DC, Monticello in Virginia, the Beck Cultural Exchange Center in Knoxville TN, the Nashville Zoo, and the Lorraine Motel Civil Rights Museum in Memphis. We end with a Temple tour the last day.

Registration opens soon!

Navigating Your Financial Future

7– 8:30 pm Sunday, February 1

The Presiding Bishopric is hosting a financial education session and discussion with Certified Financial Planner® Paul Dreher for individuals aged 45–65. Join us for a program designed to help you understand key financial topics, assess your financial direction, and explore the benefit of a personalized retirement plan. Gain practical tools for planning your financial future. Register at bit.ly/FinancialFutureFeb26.

An Invitation to the Ministry of Silence

Online Ministry Retreat

9 – 11 am Saturday, February 7 OR 21

Central Missouri and Coastal Bend Mission Centers are hosting this online ministry led by Evangelists Diane Allison and Mark. Members of the Midlands Mission Center are invited to attend. Register at bit.ly/SpiritualRetreatFeb26. Questions can be directed to Central Missouri MC President Mary Jo Sartin at 660.747.6193.

Climate Webinar

4pm Sunday, February 15

The North American Climate Justice Team is hosting a webinar entitled *Imagining Our World Beyond Fossil Fuels: An Adventure in Prophetic Imagination*. You are invited to imagine a world beyond fossil fuels, pollution and climate-based injustices. Register at letsgo.bio/climatejustice/

EMERGE Online Youth Gathering

6pm Sunday, February 22

All youth ages 14–18 are invited to join this Zoom gathering to connect, make new friends, and share life together with others across the church. Everyone is welcome, and we'd love to see you there!

Zoom link: bit.ly/EmergeFeb26

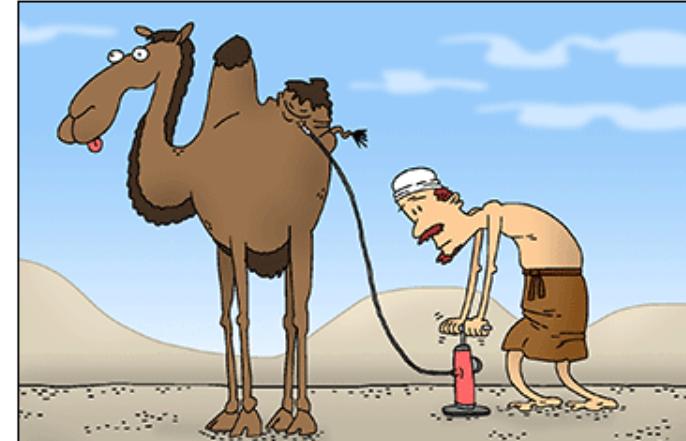
Silent Retreat @ Camp Ozark

The Mystery of Silence: Be Still and Know

March 13 – 15

In silence, the Holy Spirit guides us into those places within where hidden dreams and ideas wait to be revealed, trapped beneath our hurts and fears. The South Central States Mission Center invites you to participate in a weekend SILENT SPIRITUAL RETREAT at Camp Ozark south of Joplin, MO. Evangelist Paul Beaulieu and the SCS Mission Center Team will facilitate the retreat. The \$90 registration fee includes food and lodging. More information and registration form at bit.ly/SilentRetreatMar26 Payment can be made at the retreat, but registration must be sent beforehand.

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from the desk of Rob Heverling

Shalom, shalom, everyone.

Extreme cold and snow can be a bummer.

However, I have noticed when I am layered up, (wearing warm boots and mittens), going out at night walking our Standard Poodle, Lucy (she is also wearing boots), can be a surprisingly *peaceful* experience. I've found these simple frigid, snowy walks are a good time to connect with God. The cold seems to allow me to better perceive the touch of the Holy Spirit that comes during my simple prayer walk.

On our life journey with God, I hope you have experienced *sudden peace* in moments of stress. In very low points of our lives the Holy Spirit often surprises us with a moment of reassuring peace...even a *spark of joy* in the depths of our suffering.

Jesus said, "*Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament... you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy.*" -John 16:20.

It's hard to convey the experience of a moment of joy in the depths of sorrow to an *unchurched person*. This small burst of joy that sparks hope seems impossible. Simply telling an unchurched person *how immersing one's life in the gospel of Christ will dramatically change her/his life* will probably not be very **meaningful** to them.

I passionately believe in the truth of this statement: **People will ONLY commit their valuable time to what is most meaningful in their lives.**

Our faith communities are simply not meaningful to unchurched people.

And this is our challenge...making our *gospel peace movement* meaningful to the unchurched.

We don't change the gospel. The gospel is unchanging. But we better figure out how to connect the gospel to the unchurched in the most meaningful ways. We must think of our peace mission in very pragmatic ways.

One simple example: **Finding life and joy after divorce.** We invite lots of people to this three-part series starting on a specific Sunday morning. There are many divorced people. They're hurting. They struggle to find peace. So, we network and promote a very pragmatic and **meaningful** solution to restoring peace in a divorcee's life.

I'm not suggesting this will suddenly bring dozens of new unchurched people into our faith communities. But what I am saying is this kind of series is profoundly **more meaningful** to unchurched people who have long established **new routines... new rituals** on Sunday morning. A series like this **might be meaningful enough** to get some to come and visit and listen to a well-produced sermon with expert advice from credible counselors weaved with scripture and perhaps a personal testimony of finding peace, even joy in the depths of a cold, sorrowful, long lasting life experience.

Our Community of Christ Faith Movement can become **meaningful** in the lives of so many people who need to experience the flow of the Holy Spirit washing over them and through them in a loving, accepting group of fellow imperfect people.

No perfect people allowed in our church.

It's great to be your new Midlands Mission Center President. I look forward to spending time in your church communities.

Once again, shalom, shalom.

Rob