



4 May, 2020

Dear Upper Midwest Disciples,

It is with a heavy heart that I write to you today to inform you of a very difficult decision that was made by the Camp Council for the Christian Church in the Upper Midwest. After much study, discernment, prayer, feedback from directors, and input from parents, the Council has decided to cancel the 2020 camping season at the Christian Conference Center. The safety of our campers, volunteers, and staff is our highest priority as an organization. We ultimately decided that with the quickly changing dynamics of the Covid-19 outbreak and the way we live life together at camp, we cannot guarantee that safety this summer.

This is a heartbreaking decision for all of us in leadership here at the Christian Conference Center. It is our greatest joy to serve our campers! As you know, we put off this decision as long as we could to have the most recent data with which to make a determination. While we can't be together in the way we would prefer, we still hope to do youth and children's ministry this summer and are dreaming about what that could look like.

We are exploring bringing summer camp to you through Camp Crates and camp t-shirts that would be delivered to your door. We also hope to welcome back small teams of volunteers by late summer who can spend a day at camp serving together. Also, we are hoping to bring you Camp on the Road, where camp leaders would travel to different parts of our region (if it becomes safe) to hold campfires with small groups. Finally, if large gatherings are permitted by late summer, our first priority will be to allow our camp seniors to come to the CCC and to have some final time with friends and mentors here on Holy Ground. While we realize none of this can replace a full week with God, friends and counselors on Holy Ground, we do hope to be able to lift your spirits in some way this summer with reminders of the CCC.

If you have already registered for camp, someone will be in contact with you soon. You will be able to a) hold over your registration fee for the 2021 season, b) donate your fee to CCC operations costs for the 2020 season, or c) receive a full refund. We have had many friends of the camp ask how they could contribute to the ongoing costs to care for our facility during this trying time. We will be in touch with ways you could support the CCC this summer. We have faith that this troubling season in our world will come to an end. We remember the promise from scripture that darkness never has the final word for people of faith. We are living in a Good Friday moment, but new life will come again someday! We look forward to a time when we can gather together again on our Holy Ground.

Peace,

Camp Council Members: Robyn Bles, Noel Brown, Connie Derby Dicks, Randy Ehrhardt, Laurie Feille, Linda Hunsaker, Lisa Thurston, Tiff Williams (Associate Regional Minister)