

From a very early age, my parents taught me, knowingly or not, that the members of the church are not perfect, but the church is the body of Christ, and therefore must be loved and cherished—TOGETHER we are the body of Christ.

Along the way there have been people and places where I have sensed God's presence and call upon my life in loving and nurturing ways. The people in the pews of at least 12 congregations have been some of those places. Summer church camp has been another. Like so many of you, I sense a call to the vocation of



ministry at camp. Others have sensed vocational callings at camp in which their faith can be lived out. Lifelong friendships and relationships have been formed at camp. That is why we often call Camp Christian a sacred place.

This past summer over 825 children, youth, and young adults attended Camp Christian. More will be there in 2018. Some have said a week at church camp is equal to one-year of Sunday school. Whether literally true or not, that is an amazing statement. I suspect it is literally true.

At camp we experience Christ's love "from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love."

We need Camp Christian to be the best it can be, so that we the church can be the best we can be as followers of Jesus. Please, prayerfully consider a gift to the Christmas Offering for Regional Ministry. Every gift supports the ministry of the Christian Church in Ohio. All of our regional staff members, along with many volunteers, work together to make the ministry at Camp Christian happen. We need your Christmas Offering to help make that happen. Please give.

May this Christmas season be filled with hope, peace, love and joy for each of you.

Rev. John M. Richardson  
Interim Regional Minister  
Christian Church in Ohio



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