



DHF Connection

SUMMER 2026

What does DHF do?

My wife, Marita, recently retired after a long career as a school teacher. Most of those years were spent in public schools, primarily in second grade, where she specialized in helping students develop English proficiency. For many of her students, English was their second language.

Today, many of those she taught have accomplished remarkable things including several Ivy League graduates, authors, two NFL players, two Miss America winners, and many more. Marita was not the only person who influenced these successes. It was the partnership of many teachers, coaches, and mentors who helped these students develop the skills, character, and determination to reach their full potential.

The Apostle Paul understood the power of partnership. None of us individually, and none of our churches accomplished as much alone as we can in cooperation with others. He wrote:

"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now"

— Philippians 1:4-5

Beyond the ministry of any single local church, there is a greater Kingdom impact when churches share resources, wisdom, and spiritual gifts.

Disciple Heritage Fellowship is that kind of partnership. We exist to equip, encourage, and connect churches and leaders through a growing network of congregations, ministry leaders, and trusted ministry partners.

Whether your church is navigating opportunities, challenges, or seasons of transition, DHF is committed to providing practical resources and experienced counsel.

Areas where DHF has assisted churches include:

- Recruiting ministry leaders and volunteers
- Pastoral search and hiring assistance
- Elder and leadership training
- Evangelism and discipleship strategies
- Reaching young adults
- Encouragement and counseling for pastors
- Church budgeting for staff care, facilities, and missions
- Leading change for future growth
- Counsel through significant church conflict
- Continuing education for pastors and leaders
- Assistance with bylaws and governing documents
- Guidance for becoming part of the DHF network

No single leader in DHF can provide all of these services to the broader church of Jesus Christ. But together, through the partnership of Disciple Heritage Fellowship, we can equip the Church to become the beautiful Bride of Christ. Together we become part of the Church that Jesus is building, the Church against which the very gates of Hades cannot prevail.

No church should have to navigate ministry challenges alone. Through partnerships, shared experience, and practical resources, DHF seeks to strengthen churches and leaders for greater Kingdom impact.



Randy Roberts | rroberts@discipleheritage.org

Randy is the DHF Executive Director. Randy has served as a pastor and church planter alongside his wife, Marita, for more than 40 years, leading four different ministries, in four different states, and guiding each through seasons of change.

Top: Pastor Bobby Godwin (Central Christian Church of Moberly, MO), Lloyd Pelfrey (President Emeritus of Central Bible University), and Randy Roberts. Left top: Marita Roberts at the 2026 DHF National Conference. Left bottom: Randy Roberts is twinning with Monty Teeter (DHF Board Member) in Ulysses, Kansas.



SAVE THE DATE

APRIL 28-29, 2027

Each year, church leaders from around the nation gather together for our annual DHF National Conference. We unite around the authority of scripture and Jesus Christ as Lord.

We were blessed to have an awesome conference this past April 2026 in Decatur, IL. We had a wonderful time of corporate worship, learning from our main speakers and breakout leaders, and connecting with each other. **Ministry should never be done alone.**

Check out a few of the many positive comments we received regarding this year's conference. If you've never attended our conference but are curious about it, reach out to us at questions@discipleheritage.org. Even if your church is not affiliated with DHF, you are invited to attend.

"The DHF conference is a great way to connect with the common belief that Jesus is our Savior and the resurrection is truth."

"This was the best DHF conference to date... regardless of church size, everyone was served."

"I love connecting with others and being recharged through worship and inspirational messages."

"We need reminders that as churches, we are part of the Kingdom... gathering together is priceless."

"I loved it all! The worship was amazing as were the speakers and breakout sessions."



Missed 2026?
Watch here ↓





Top: Pastor Carl Waggoner (right in blue shirt) decided it was time to be baptized by immersion. When he announced this to his congregation, he was joined by eight others. Their congregation has a new excitement and energy now!

Founded in the early 1800s by Raccoon John Smith, Somerset Christian Church in Mt. Sterling, Kentucky, sits just south of Cane Ridge. Today, Carl Waggoner serves as their pastor. Recently, after years of reflection, **Carl made the decision to be baptized by immersion.** Check out our interview with Carl. His testimony needs to be heard!

What led you to consider getting baptized now?

It is something I have contemplated since 1979. After discussions I wondered, would it negate or invalidate the decision of my parents when I was an infant, or would it devalue my ordination? I decided that I am done overthinking this. The main reason is so I can remember my baptism. I want to complete that part of Mark 16:16 and to act in obedience.

How did you share your decision with the church?

I asked what [my church elders] thought. One said, "I think that is great!" Another guy burst into tears! I announced to my congregation that I have decided I am going to be baptized and get completely wet toward the end of June. If anyone wants to join me, we will go down to the creek together. The response was overwhelmingly positive.

How were others influenced?

One invitation quickly became many. A teenager committed to be baptized. Soon his mother and aunt decided to join him. Another woman, then her granddaughter, and even an unchurched cousin chose to be baptized as well.

One man, burdened by a tragic past, admitted he felt unqualified. I told him, "If you think you are unqualified, you are qualified. If you go down a sinner, you will still be a sinner — not perfect, but forgiven — when you come up. It will proclaim to the world we are on Team Jesus, and we aspire to live that way."

After his baptism he didn't stop smiling the rest of the day. I had never seen him smile before. Interestingly, he was the first one of the nine people baptized and remained in the creek to help everyone else into and out of the water.

What has the experience meant to you?

The baptisms were held in a creek the church had used years earlier. Members secured permission to use the property, cut steps into the bank, and we used a log for a banister.

Personally, I didn't do anything other than make the decision that I needed to do this for me. However, the day was special because of the effort it required on everyone's part to take it from being a clean, sterile spectator sport to something the church did to conquer the chaos of the world.

Nearly 100 people from several churches attended. Together we sang, *Shall We Gather at the River*. The church is still talking about it. There is a new excitement and energy. There, in the shadow of Cane Ridge, ol' Raccoon John would have been proud.



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Disciple Heritage Fellowship

3350 N MacArthur Rd / Decatur, IL 62526 / 217.875.3350

f **@** discipleheritage.org

DHF Staff

Randy Roberts

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
rroberts@discipleheritage.org

Rick Grace

CHURCH LIAISON
rgrace@discipleheritage.org

FCC Decatur

Brian Talty

LEAD PASTOR

Jonathan Grunden

EXECUTIVE PASTOR

Crystal Kirkman

COMMUNICATIONS

Dawn Wendt

OFFICE

DHF Board

Drew McClellan

CHAIR / INDIANA

Tom Helvie

INDIANA

Dennis Lake

SOUTH DAKOTA

Nathan Loewen

FLORIDA

Scott McNay

MISSOURI

Ellen Moma

ILLINOIS

Monty Teeter

KANSAS

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Sign up for our **MONDAY MORNING ENCOURAGEMENT** emails where you'll receive an inspirational devotion by various contributors, upcoming events, and positive news coming out of our DHF network of churches. Scan the QR code or sign up at discipleheritage.org/news

