

DHF Connection

FALL 2026

Better Together

We believe God has uniquely positioned Disciple Heritage Fellowship (DHF) for a season of growth. Partnerships with ministries sharing our biblical convictions and vision for the Kingdom of God will play a vital role in that growth. Already, we are seeing exciting opportunities develop.

Partnering for Regional Events

In October, **DHF partnered with Lincoln Christian Institute (LCI) to host a Church Health Seminar in North Texas.** Dr. Jim Estep, professor at Dallas Theological Seminary and pastor of Richland Hills Christian Church (a DHF congregation), joined Randy Roberts as the featured speakers. Participants represented DHF congregations, Disciples of Christ churches, independent Christian Churches, and non-instrumental Churches of Christ. It was great to see various branches of the Restoration Movement growing together! What began as a conversation between DHF and LCI developed into a seminar helping church leaders understand the characteristics of a healthy church and discover practical ways to lead change. We hope this first regional partnership with LCI becomes a model for similar events nationwide.



Partnering for Church Renewal

Another opportunity is developing through Renew.org, a growing national network of Restoration Movement leaders committed to biblical teaching, discipleship, and church renewal. **Randy was invited to introduce DHF through an article in Renew's fall newsletter.** Renew is a growing national ministry of conservative Restoration Movement leaders. It's exciting to share DHF's story with this community. Through our common legacy and beliefs, we have great opportunities to strengthen one another.



Partnering for Missions Outreach

DHF is also expanding its connections through the International Conference on Missions (ICOM) in St. Louis, Missouri. **Randy will lead a breakout session introducing DHF and its mission to ICOM attendees.** Since 1948, ICOM has connected missionaries and mission organizations with churches passionate about reaching the world for Christ. We frequently hear the question, "Where can our church find missionaries and mission organizations with whom we can partner?" ICOM brings together an incredible variety of mission ministries, from grassroots outreach to established international organizations. Whatever area of missions your church is interested in partnering with, you can find a mission at ICOM which reflects your passion.

Stronger Together

These partnerships remind us that we don't have to do everything ourselves. Nor should we! God is already working through gifted people and effective ministries across the country. By joining hands, sharing resources, and encouraging one another, we can accomplish far more together than we could alone. Like Paul's gratitude for the Philippians' "partnership in the gospel," we celebrate these relationships and look forward to what God will accomplish through them. **Together, we can empower churches and leaders to thrive and fulfill the Great Commission.**



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: Randy Roberts leads a session during the Church Health Seminar in North Texas in October 2026;
Left: Randy Roberts, Steve Collins, and Rick Grace (DHF Church Liaison)

Welcome to the family!



SHELTON MEMORIAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
ULYSSES, KANSAS

"Shelton Memorial Christian Church disaffiliated from the DOC more than three years ago. When we became independent and found we didn't have any direction for helping with church matters or pastoral support, DHF was the lifeline to connect SMCC to a fellowship of like-minded believers. DHF has helped us find a pastor and provided guidance regarding how to maintain our church. SMCC voted unanimously to join and support DHF during our congregational meeting on October 13, 2026. We are very happy with the future going forward with DHF!"

— Monty Teeter, Elder of SMCC



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
LARNED, KANSAS

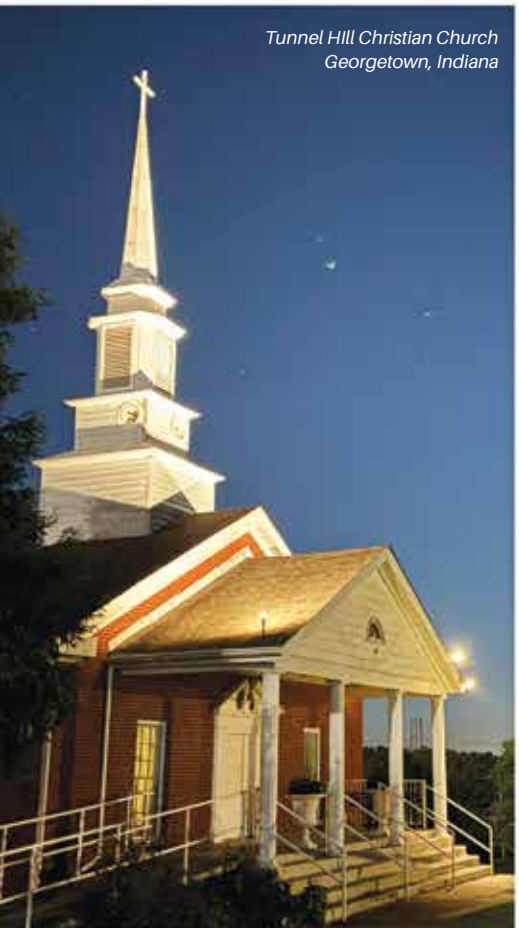
"We joined Disciple Heritage Fellowship because it aligns with our congregation's conservative theological beliefs, our Bible-based mission, and practical needs for support of our pastors and leaders, plus networking with like-minded churches for shared ministry and encouragement. Although we are our own authority, we will have support where and whenever we need it."

— Bill Clapham & the Elders of FCC


"Church on the Farm" Annual Event


Summer VBS


Pastor Michael Chanley


Tunnel HIll Christian Church
Georgetown, Indiana

Growing in Ways That Matter

BY MICHAEL J. CHANLEY

When I interviewed for the pastorate at Tunnel Hill Christian Church (Georgetown, Indiana) in 2021, an elder expressed concern about the church she loved dearly. I remember her saying, "We love our church, and we are worried that if something doesn't change, it will die when we are gone."

The leadership at Tunnel Hill took some calculated risks in the first months after hiring me. Together, we took a chance and started a new Thursday night service. Growth didn't demand an additional service; we simply hoped families working weekends could try out our church. We also hired a part-time children's minister even though we had zero kids and no families with young children.

Like Gideon laying out a fleece to seek a sign from God, we prayerfully tested the way forward with God. We offered our church members a hopeful path through faith and prayer. Over time, God showed us the way forward.

Our numeric growth didn't demand the Thursday service, nor did it demand the children's program. They were opportunities for us to be intentional about setting the table and inviting people to join us. We quickly saw the additional service as a front door into the church. People would visit on Thursdays and often navigate toward Sundays. As the children's program grew over time, it showed new families that we were sincere in our commitment to serve all generations and their families.

From 2021 to now, our church has grown in every way that matters. We have seen steady, faithful growth that has led us to expand our parking lot and rethink how our church is governed. We expanded our children's area by renovating two seldom-used rooms. We have, also, tried dozens of things that have failed and felt the stinging hand of the Pruner's shears. Through it all, we have learned to grow in faith, share hope, and to love one another as followers of Jesus Christ.

While our numbers are still humble, they are moving in the right direction. I like to tell friends, when they ask how many people attend our church, that "We are growing in all of the ways that truly matter."

Today, the elder who worried that the church she loved was slowly dying now greets dozens of new families each week. There have been many ups and downs; I'm sure challenges are still ahead. However, we are growing together and working to be faithful with each new person that walks through the doors of our church home.

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Support the Ministry of DHF



God has provided and strengthened DHF churches and leaders in 2026!

- We celebrated one of our best annual conferences in April.
- Our new Executive Director, Randy Roberts, started in March.
- We continue to host eight online Pastor's groups.
- Elders have been encouraged through this year's Elder Forums.
- We have added several new churches to DHF.
- Our new DHF brochure card was sent out nationwide.
- God has provided us with great partnering ministries.
- We continue to have first-time contacts from non-DHF churches seeking support and assistance.

As you plan for your year-end giving, please consider a gift to DHF so we end the year strong and expand our ministry in 2027. Thank you for supporting the ministry of DHF!