

Frequently Asked Questions FAQs

Recommended:

Frequently Asked Questions

WILL TALL OAKS BE AVAILABLE FOR ANY GATHERINGS BETWEEN NOW AND AUGUST 1ST?

- Please see the Tall Oaks website for information about volunteer work and/or hiking opportunities. We will observe all guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control, the State of Kansas, and Leavenworth County regarding physical distancing and numbers of people gathered in one area

WILL THERE BE SUMMER CHURCH CAMP OF ANY KIND?

- The Association of Disciples in Outdoor Ministries is comprised of Disciples youth ministry specialists and camp and conference directors and program staff who are meeting online to explore and create healthy options for summer camp experiences on sites and online. Our Region's Camp and Conference Committee and our Regional Coordinator for Camp and Conference, [Rev. Shandra Yost-Soltani](#), are taking part in those meetings. When we become aware of how we can safely provide children and youth with opportunities, we will share that information on our Regional and Tall Oaks websites and send email notices.
- Camps already scheduled to begin in August are being revisited by the Camp and Conference Committee. Given that we cannot meet at Tall Oaks during July means that those camps have to be rescheduled or done in a different way - if we can reorganize them. Our Camp and Conference team along with other camp program planners will be working on how best to proceed and [Rev. Shandra Yost-Soltani](#), will oversee that process. Your prayers are much appreciated. This is new territory for all of us. We will keep you posted.

I HAVE REGISTERED MYSELF OR A CHILD OR YOUTH FOR SUMMER CHURCH CAMP. WILL I BE ABLE TO GET A REFUND?

- Yes. The short answer is yes. 100% refunds will be processed through Disciples Treasury Services which handles the Region's financial accounting and writes all our refund checks
- You may, if you choose, contact [Rev. Shandra Yost-Soltani](#), at 913.432.1414 or office@kcdisciples.org to donate part or all of your registration fees already paid to the Camp Scholarship Fund which is used to help make camp possible for children whose parents or guardians cannot afford to pay the whole registration fee. Decisions about how those funds are used are recommended by the Camp and Conference Committee, Rev. Dr. Lara Blackwood Pickrel, chair.

WILL THERE BE AN EQUESTRIAN PROGRAM AT TALL OAKS?

- Yes. It will transition from an on-site to an off-site program with local equestrian centers. Keeping an onsite equestrian program proved to be cost-prohibitive to maintain.

WILL THERE BE STAFF CHANGES AT TALL OAKS?

- Yes. Executive Director Martha Pierce has given notice that she will be returning to her home in Tennessee in mid-August.
- Our Regional and Tall Oaks Boards are exploring an option to work with United Camps, Conferences and Retreats which has managed camp and conference facilities like ours for fifty years. If a decision by our Regional Board is made to enter into an agreement, we will announce that.

WHO CAN I CONTACT ABOUT MORE INFORMATION OR TO ANSWER OTHER QUESTIONS?

- Our Regional Camp and Conference Coordinator, [Rev. Shandra Yost-Soltani](mailto:shandra@kcdisciples.org), shandra@kcdisciples.org or 913.433.6672 has the most up-to-date information for you.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. Decisions like the ones we have had to make are painful. Like you, we are all dealing with disappointment and disruptions of carefully made plans.

Author and founder of the Center for Contemplation and Action, Richard Rohr, O.F.M. in a recent reflection on Exodus 33:18 and 33:22-23, noted that the times in his life when he was most challenged, he noticed most clearly the presence of God in those moments after – not before or during - the crisis. (You can read the whole reflection [here.](#))

We may not be fully aware of God's love and care in this moment, but God is indeed in this time with us. We can certainly feel what we feel, and we can still believe and have hope.