

---

## Southeast Gateway Area

Of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Mid-America

Penny Ross-Corona, Area Minister

475 East Lockwood Ave ♦ St Louis, MO 63119

Phone 314.918.2515 ♦ Fax 314.918.2529

E-Mail [sega@eden.edu](mailto:sega@eden.edu)

---

February 1, 2010

Dear SEGA Friends,

Christ's peace to you in these days after the Epiphany, when God is revealed in the many experiences of our shared ministry!

The congregations of our Southeast Gateway Area are blessed with deep faith and a commitment to transformative ministry with children, youth, and adults. One of the special places we have lived out this ministry for many years is Orchard Crest Camp. At camp, we have built relationships with Christ and with each other that have changed our lives. We hold precious memories of campfires and creek-walks, singing in the dining hall and worship in the open air chapel, late-night stories in cabins and morning watch. We have shared in prayer, dreams and workdays in the building of this sacred space.

Events over recent years made it necessary for us to evaluate the viability of continued use and ownership of Orchard Crest. To that end, the Orchard Crest Task Force has been at work throughout the last year. The Task Force has prayed and worked, spent time at Orchard Crest, received input from Disciples throughout SEGA, and engaged with a camp consultant from Kaleidoscope inc. This is the same consultant that has been working with Rickman Center in Jefferson City. For more information about Kaleidoscope, please go to <http://www.kaleidoscope-inc.com/>. The camp task force, consisting of Disciples dedicated to Orchard Crest and to outdoor ministries, reached the difficult, painful decision to present the (attached) consultant's recommendation to the SEGA Board.

This past Saturday, January 30, the Board discussed the consultant's recommendation that SEGA sell Orchard Crest. On the Task Force's recommendation, the Board will wait until its April meeting to vote.

Between now and April we want to give everyone in SEGA the opportunity to read the report, talk about Orchard Crest and about our future plans for outdoor ministries. This is a hard step of faith. Our connections to Orchard Crest run deep and wide. Our emotions run high when we think about letting go of this piece of land on which we have begun many a faith walk. Yet we know that God calls us to new and transformative ministry with children, youth, and adults. God calls us to be good stewards of the life and resources we have been given. God calls us to make hard decisions; to set our priorities so that Christ's ministry is always our highest focus.

We will hold four Orchard Crest Informational meetings in the month of March. Two of these will be in the southern part of the Area and 2 in the northern part. As soon as the dates and locations of these meetings are set, we will send out a notice and post invitations on our website, [www.segadisciples.org](http://www.segadisciples.org). Orchard Crest Task Force members and Board members will be at each meeting. Please share this information with members of your congregation, so that we may pray together, listen together, and share our faith and hope through this process.

In Christ,

Jacquelyn Foster  
Area Board Moderator

Penny Ross-Corona  
Area Minister

---