

## PLEASE WELCOME OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Paul B. Koch, Jr., M.Div. D.Min.

Regional Minister, Christian Church of Mid-America  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Among all expectations that may be placed upon a Regional Minister, Paul Koch values most being a pastor to pastors and a shepherd for people seeking wider church connections in their faith. He is especially overjoyed that this includes helping men and his brothers among congregations grow into a deeper, vital, transformative spirituality through [www.illumanozarks.org](http://www.illumanozarks.org) and Disciples Men.

In trying to find out what being a man meant to him, Paul did a master's thesis on masculine spirituality and then completed his doctoral project titled, *When the Gym Is a Man's Church: Spiritual Quests for Identity, Discipline, & Community*. As a local pastor, he has created weekly community men's groups that had stable followings. Each took various approaches to content and when printed guides were scarce, he wrote his own curricula on dozens of topics and approaches.

His inner search to "find the courage to let go" and embrace vulnerability found clarity when he completed his Men's Rites of Passage (MROP) in 2015. This is followed by participating in and leading annual depth retreats in northern Minnesota, New Mexico, Ohio, Texas, Chicago, Kansas, California, the untamed Missouri Ozarks, as well as online – including for men in Romania. He is on the General Council of Disciples Men and Convener of Illuman of the Ozarks ([www.illumanozarks.org](http://www.illumanozarks.org)).

Paul has been married to Marcia Koch for 37 years and has three grown children. They live in Musselfork Township in northern Missouri. His hobbies include listening to podcasts, swimming, walking his dog, and is always trying to be outdoors.

