

STATEMENT OF CALLING

West Side Christian Church
is a faithful and caring church family
committed to making Disciples of Jesus Christ in our
Church, our Community,
and our **World.**

Church: *Equip* our church family through spiritual growth and leadership development.

Community: *Share* the love of Christ through service.

World: *Witness* through support of Disciples' missions.

A VISION FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

OUR VISION

To be a faithful, growing church, that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice. (Micah 6:8)

OUR MISSION

To be and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps "to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

2020 VISION

- 1000 new congregations
- 1000 transformed congregations
- The leadership development necessary to realize these new and renewed congregations
- All within a context of being an anti-racist/pro-reconciling church.

Who is the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)?

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) originated on the American Frontier during the early 19th Century. Its first leaders were Barton Stone and Alexander Campbell, Presbyterians who reacted against sectarian frontier religion and urged a union of all Christians founded upon the restoration of New Testament Christianity. They advocated adult baptism by immersion, weekly observance of The Lord's Supper, and autonomy of the local congregation.

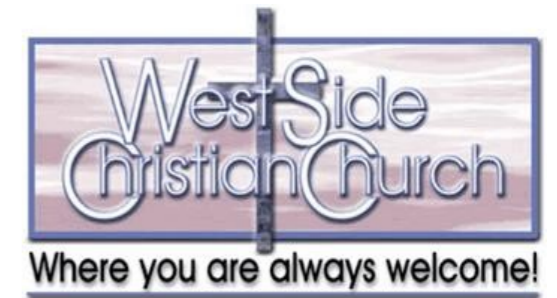
Congregations accept new members through a confession of faith and baptism or by transfer of membership from other denominations. Worship styles vary from congregation to congregation, but all observe communion each Sunday. The communion table is open to all. It is a place where we come to experience the power of God's love and the grace of Jesus Christ in the breaking of bread and the drinking of the cup. Our gathering at the communion table is the central focus of our worship service.

Disciples advocate freedom and embrace diversity. We are a non-creedal tradition which means that creeds and doctrines do not dictate how we are to live out our faith. Each person is challenged to study the scriptures and discern God's will for their own life. The Christian Church has always served as a "bridge church" or a common ground for people with diverse denominational backgrounds. We believe in welcoming *all* people into relationship with Jesus Christ.

Who is West Side Christian Church?

The West Side Christian Church had its beginning on July 1, 1956 when 105 members of the Park View Christian Church, located on Hatton Street in downtown Portsmouth, were commissioned to organize a new Christian Church in the West End. The newly formed congregation held its first worship service on July 8, 1956 in the Grove Park Seventh Day Adventist Church on Winchester Drive. Attendance was 131. Those temporary facilities were utilized until the first unit of the present plant was constructed. In August of 1956, both the Christian Women's Fellowship and the Christian Men's Fellowship groups were chartered.

West Side Christian Church recently celebrated its 50th anniversary and has recommitted itself to doing ministry in the city of Portsmouth. We see ourselves as a loving and caring congregation open to where God is calling us. In many ways, we are like a giant family committed to one another and to Jesus Christ. With nearly 400 members, we are continuing to grow and hope you will consider making West Side your church home.



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DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Rev. Nathan Brown, Minister
Becky Barclay, Music Director

WELCOME

West Side Christian Church

June 15, 2008



**GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Be Thou My Vision" arr. Martin

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP Elder, Kitty Baker

Elder: This is a time of God's appearing; let us worship!
Let us recognize that God is within and among us.

**ALL: God's ear is inclined toward us.
We know that God listens and hears our prayers.**

Elder: We are here to offer our thanks to God.
We will pay our vows to God in the presence of others.

**ALL: We are grateful for the grace in which we stand.
We praise God with great joy and gladness.**

Elder: God bears us up on eagles' wings.
God draws us into covenant community.

**ALL: We will listen for God's commandments.
We will seek to do all that God requires.**

*WORSHIP HYMN "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" CH, 25

*UNISON INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: God of all creation, help us to recognize your presence among us. May we greet one another as your precious children and as messengers of your care. Help us offer such hospitality to one another that even the most skeptical among us will be touched by love. You are love; in you we will find hope amid our weakness and doubt. Let your glory shine in this place today as we lift up the cup of salvation and call on your name. We ask these things in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray saying, "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen."

*GLORIA PATRI CH, 35

OLD TESTAMENT READING Genesis 18:1-15

MORNING PRAYER

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

OFFERTORY "Aria" Phillips

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ALL: We repeat our vows of commitment to you, gracious God, as we dedicate this offering. We are disciples of Jesus Christ, commissioned to share the good news. May all that we dedicate here—our abilities, the fleeting moments of our days, the resources entrusted to our management—announce your reign and the nearness of your dominion. We give with joy and serve with delight, thanking you for this opportunity to share what you have given. Amen.

*THE DOXOLOGY CH, 46

COMMUNION HYMN "Let Us Break Bread Together" CH, 425

The Lord's Table is open for all who believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Christ has set the table before us. It is by His invitation we are fed. You may eat of the bread as it is passed and drink of the cup at the conclusion of the Words of Institution.

PRAYER FOR THE BREAD Elder, Kitty Baker

PRAYER FOR THE CUP Elder, Bob Nutting

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

ANTHEM "Rise up, O Men of God" Merrill & Walter

NEW TESTAMENT READING Matthew 9:35-10:23

SERMON Rev. Brown
"Cure the Sick, Raise the Dead, Cleanse the Lepers, Cast out Demons"

HYMN OF INVITATION "Faith of Our Fathers" CH, 635

During the singing of the benediction, we invite anyone wishing to become a Christian or wishing to unite with this congregation, please come forward.

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION "Let us Now Depart in Thy Peace" CH, 444

POSTLUDE "Allegro Moderato" Handel

Diaconate Serving Today

Bill Loftis, Diane Loftis, Kelly Terry, Stephen Milam

* PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

** At the conclusion of the announcements, children ages 3-8 are dismissed to attend "Worship and Wonder", following a prayer with Rev. Brown

Offering for June 8, 2008

WEEKLY BUDGET EXPENSES: \$3,418.00

Received for Budget:	\$ 3,474.00
General Building Fund:	188.00
Pentecost:	100.00
Other: (Coffee/Donuts, Conference Reimbursement)	485.75
TOTAL for June 8, 2008	\$ 4,247.75

