

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.

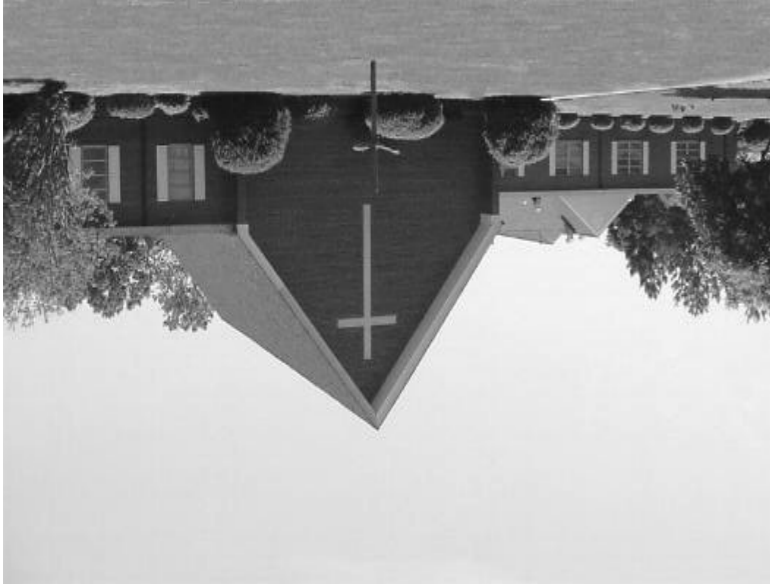
Congregations accept new members through a confession of faith and baptism or by transfer of membership from other denominations. Worship styles vary from congregation to congregation, but all observe communion each Sunday. The communion table is open to all. It is a place where we come to experience 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 Hutton 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
April 26, 2009



****GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

PRELUDE "Praise to the Lord" arr. Pathel

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** Elder, David McCrickard

Elder: God has set apart those who are faithful.
 Our Creator will hear us when we call.

**ALL: God puts gladness in our hearts and minds.
 We will lie down in safety and sleep in peace.**

Elder: Beloved, we are God's children now.
 What we will be has not yet been revealed.

**ALL: We are here to remember Jesus Christ.
 We want to be like the One who lived by love.**

Elder: Our faith strengthens us for each day's living.
 God empowers our ministries of caring.

**ALL: We trust God whose children we are.
 We look forward to what God will reveal to us.**

***WORSHIP HYMN** "All Creatures of our God and King" CH, 22

***UNISON INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER**

ALL: God of our ancestors, author of life, source of Easter good news, we are drawn together again by the mystery of life and death. We call on you, so far beyond our knowing, with a mixture of faith and doubt. Let your face shine on us as we put our trust in you. Draw together the fragments of our busy lives around the central core of love which you provide, that we might relate to one another as whole people. Grant us a fuller sense of what is right and good, and help us to live at our best. 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 Psalm 4

MORNING PRAYER

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

OFFERTORY "Communion" Guilmant

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ALL: We give with joy, gracious God, for you have been with us even when we were unfaithful. You have kept us in safety through times of great distress. We can call on you in all times and places, in life and in death, knowing that your strength is available to sustain us. We give now that your church may be empowered in the proclamation of good news and the transformation of human life. Amen.

***THE DOXOLOGY** CH, 46

COMMUNION HYMN "Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread" CH 298

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, David McCrickard

PRAYER FOR THE CUP Elder, Larry Hackler

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SOLO "The Holy City" Allison Nutting

SERMON TEXT Luke 24:36b-48

SERMON "Handling Easter" Rev. Brown

HYMN OF INVITATION "For Beauty of Meadows" CH, 696

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "In Thee Is Gladness"

DIACONATE SERVING TODAY
 Jennifer Larson, Donna Nutting, Allison Nutting, Dudley DeStefano

* 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 APRIL 19, 2009

WEEKLY BUDGET EXPENSES: \$4,718.00

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|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Received for Budget: | \$ 3,426.85 |
| Building Fund: | 293.50 |
| Easter Offering: | 150.00 |
| Flowers: | 25.00 |
| Love Gift: | 235.00 |
| Other: (Coffee/Donuts) | 12.05 |
| TOTAL for April 19, 2009 | \$ 4,142.40 |