

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.

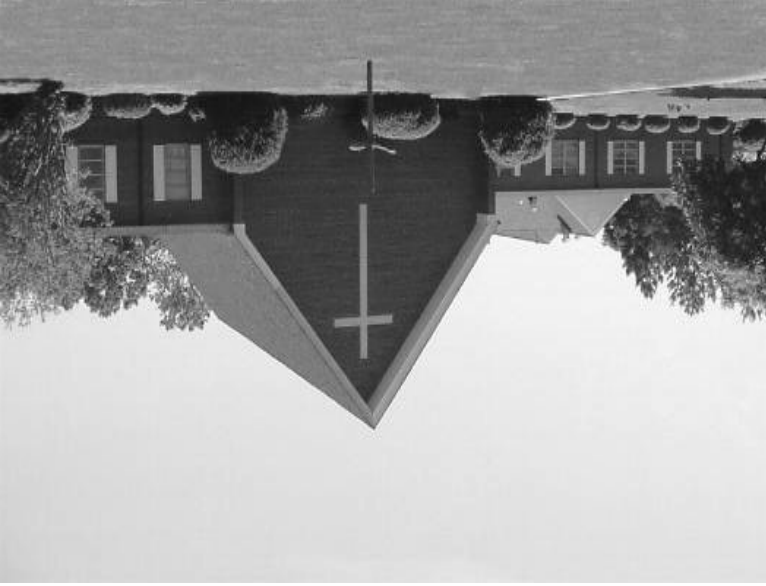
Congregations accept new members through a confession of faith and baptism or by transfer of membership from other denominations. Worship styles vary from congregation to congregation, but all observe communion each Sunday. The communion table is open to all. It is a place where we come to experience 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 it's 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
May 17, 2009



****GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

LITURGICAL DANCE "Never Give Up" Josh Bates

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** Elder, Sharon Jenson

Elder: Come all who are born of God;
 Abide in the love revealed in Jesus Christ.

ALL: We come in response to the one who calls us friends.
 We are here in obedience to Christ's command.

Elder: Remember God's steadfast love and faithfulness.
 Let hands and voices echo God's praise.

ALL: Let our lips pour out a joyful noise.
 Let our hands reflect a serving Savior.

Elder: Sing a new song to God who does marvelous things.
 Obey God's commandments which are not burdensome.

ALL: We clap our hands and sing for joy.
 We live by faith that conquers the world.

***WORSHIP HYMN** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" CH, 2

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

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit, to lift us from empty routines to the surprising joy of your love. Loosen our tongues to praise you with sincere delight. Open our hearts to trust your leading through times of difficulty and days of despair. Calm our doubts and guide us through the mires of fear. You have called us together for mutual support in a time of worship that unites our spirits. We remember that we have been baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Teach us to follow where Christ leads. 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 98

MORNING PRAYER Rev. Brown

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP Rev. Brown

OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ALL: Generous and loving God, we dedicate to your service the work of our hands, the earnings of our time and efforts, and our vision for the future. May faith sustain us as we offer our best to you in praise and thanksgiving and joyous dedication. We seek to work for the reign of your truth and extension of the friendship granted to us in Jesus Christ. Let our offering bear fruit in the lives of all who are helped by it. Amen.

***THE DOXOLOGY** CH, 46

COMMUNION MEDITATION Rev. Brown

COMMUNION HYMN "For the Bread, Which You Have Broken" CH, 411

The Lord's Table is open for all people. 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, Sharon Jenson

PRAYER FOR THE CUP Elder, David McCrickard

WORDS OF INSTITUTION Rev. Brown

ANTHEM "Prayer for Peace" Curtis

SERMON TEXT John 15:9-17

SERMON "Complete Joy" Rev. Brown

HYMN OF INVITATION "All the Way My Savior Leads Me" CH, 559
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 Rev. Brown

POSTLUDE

DIACONATE SERVING TODAY
 Michael Stidham, Shannon Stidham, Rick Lahy, Rosemary Lahy

* 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 MAY 10, 2009

WEEKLY BUDGET EXPENSES: \$4,718.00

Received for Budget:	\$ 3,882.70
Building Fund:	115.00
Scholarship Fund: (In memory of Rachel Powell)	25.00
Lawnmower Fund:	2,200.00
Other: (Coffee/Donuts, Flowers, Cans)	35.65
TOTAL for May 10, 2009	\$ 6,258.35