

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.

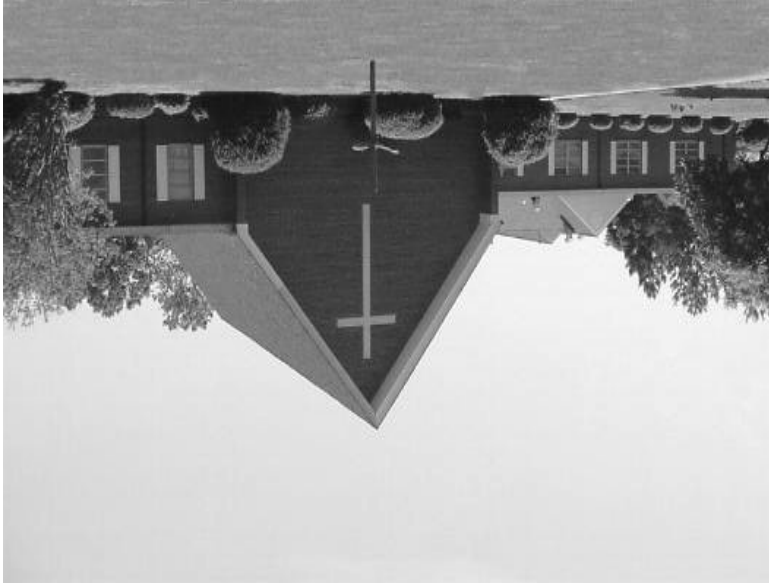
Congregations accept new members through a confession of faith and baptism or by transfer of membership from other denominations. Worship styles vary from congregation to congregation, but all observe communion each Sunday. The communion table is open to all. It is a place where we come to experience 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
June 21, 2009



****GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

PRELUDE "This Is My Father's World" Sheppard

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

Elder: Gather to give thanks with your whole heart.
 Rejoice in God's love and faithfulness.

**ALL: We bow down, for this is God's holy temple.
 We pour out our thanks in songs of praise.**

Elder: God answers us when we call.
 Our Creator increases our strength of soul.

**ALL: Great is the glory of our God!
 We rejoice in God's steadfast love.**

Elder: Wait for God, and hope in God's Word.
 Open your hearts to the holy present in our midst.

**ALL: Our ears are attentive to the voice of God.
 We open our lives to God's directions.**

***WORSHIP HYMN** "Faith of Our Fathers" CH, 635

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

ALL: Our souls wait for you, O God. Our ears are attentive to your word. We hope for a clear understanding of your will for us. Let this time of meeting draw us together in unity, with a sense of direction and purpose for our church and our individual lives. Renew us within so that nothing we face around us can undermine our faith or cause us to despair. Claim us all as sisters and brothers of Jesus Christ, and help us to reflect this kinship in all we do or say. 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 Isaiah 6:1-8

CHILD DEDICATION

MORNING PRAYER

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

OFFERTORY "Aria" Phillips

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ALL: Thank you, God, for your faithfulness. We bring ourselves and some of what we have accumulated to praise you and do the work you call us to do. Fulfill your purpose for this church as you enlist our offerings and our lives. In amazement at the work of your hands, we reach out our hands to help others and invite them to join us. In our labors for you, we will not lose heart. Help us to do your will. Amen.

***THE DOXOLOGY** CH, 46

COMMUNION MEDITATION Rev. Brown

COMMUNION HYMN "The Old, Rugged Cross" CH, 548
 (stz. 1, 2, 3)

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, David McCrickard

PRAYER FOR THE CUP Elder, Fred Fritts

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

ANTHEM "Great Is the Lord" Lojeski

SERMON TEXT John 3:1-17

SERMON "It Is Not About You" 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 "Allegro Moderato" Ravina

DIACONATE SERVING TODAY
 William Brown, Courtney Brown, Kristen Brown, Carrie Kelly

* 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.

OFFERING FOR June 14, 2009

WEEKLY BUDGET EXPENSES: \$4,718.00

Received for Budget:	\$ 2,722.50
Building Fund:	740.00
Memorial Fund: (In memory of Cecil, Reba & Pat Stafford)	800.00
Other: (Coffee/Donuts, Flowers)	40.50

TOTAL for June 14, 2009 \$ 4,303.00