

## 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.

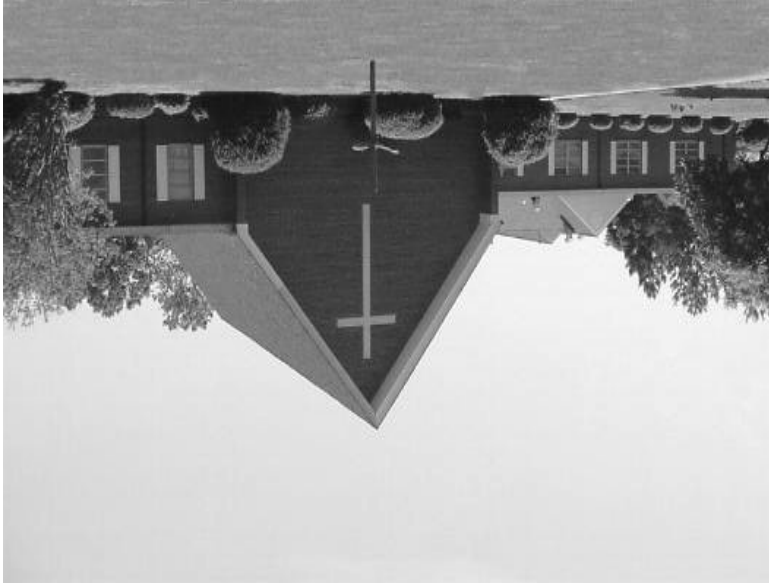
Congregations accept new members through a confession of faith and baptism or by transfer of membership from other denominations. Worship styles vary from congregation to congregation, but all observe communion each Sunday. The communion table is open to all. It is a place where we come to experience 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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**  
**August 2, 2009**



**\*\*GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

**PRELUDE** "Pastorale" Matthews

**\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** Elder, Fred Fritts

Elder: Draw near to God, who has heard your complaining.  
 Come in the name of Jesus, who understands your need.

**ALL: We have received manna in the wilderness.  
 We have been offered the bread of life.**

Elder: Open yourselves to God's steadfast love.  
 Be honest before the Holy One who knows all you do.

**ALL: We are judged according to our deeds.  
 Our secret sins are known to our God.**

Elder: The Holy Spirit has come to restore your joy.  
 God's presence is real to those who accept God's gift.

**ALL: Whoever comes to Jesus will not be hungry.  
 Whoever trusts in Christ will never be thirsty.**

**\*WORSHIP HYMN** "How Great Thou Art" CH, 33

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

**ALL:** We hear you calling us, loving God, to a life of humility, gentleness, and patience. Keep your call before us in this hour that we may recognize and celebrate our oneness in Jesus Christ. May your Spirit unite us in the bond of peace. Speak to us of the Savior, who bore humanity's shame that we might learn to bear with one another in love. Draw us to a common faith, in spite of our differences. Lead us into new depths of trust beyond our knowing, and along new pathways of service out-distancing our fears. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, 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** Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

**MORNING PRAYER**

**INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP**

**OFFERTORY** "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" Bach

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**ALL:** We dedicate our offerings, not alone for the good they can accomplish and the mission they will support, but also because giving helps us to gain perspective on what really matters. We would stop working only for food that perishes, seeking for all the food that endures for eternal life. May our lives and all we give perform the works of God. Build us up in love for one another and for all your children everywhere.

**\*THE DOXOLOGY** CH, 46

**COMMUNION MEDITATION** Rev. Brown

**COMMUNION HYMN** "Let Us Break Bread Together" CH, 425  
*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, Fred Fritts

**PRAYER FOR THE CUP** Elder, Lynne Thomas

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**ANTHEM** "In Remembrance of Me" Courtney and Red

**SERMON TEXT** John 6:24-35

**SERMON** "Soul Food" Rev. Brown

**HYMN OF INVITATION** "Precious Name" CH, 625  
*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** "Psalm XVIII" Marcello

**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 JULY 26, 2009**

**WEEKLY BUDGET EXPENSES: \$4,718.00**

Received for Budget:	\$ 2,443.50
Building Fund:	1,060.00
Parking Lot:	1,000.00
Other: (Coffee/Donuts)	11.06
<b>TOTAL for July 26, 2009</b> .....	<b>\$ 4,514.56</b>