

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 West Side Christian Church?

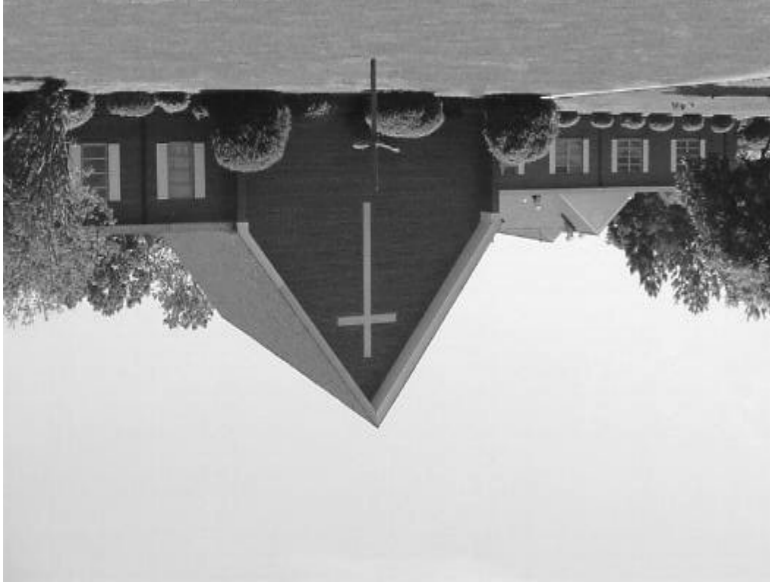
The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) originated on the American Frontier during the early 19th Century. Its first leaders were Barton Stone and Alexander Campbell, Presbyterians who reacted against sectarian frontier religion and urged a union of all Christians founded upon the restoration of New 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 the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)?

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 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
February 1, 2009



****GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

PRELUDE "Be Still and Know" Chapman

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** Elder, Lynne Thomas

Elder: Great are the words of God, and greatly to be praise.
 God's righteousness endures forever.

ALL: We come together as a congregation of believer.
We give thanks to God with whole hearts.

Elder: God is gracious and merciful and trustworthy.
 At all times, God is mindful of the covenant.

ALL: The works of God's hand are established among us.
We can count on God's righteousness and faithfulness.

Elder: Awe before God is the beginning of wisdom.
 All who approach God in fear have good understanding.

ALL: Holy and awesome is God's name.
We call on God to empower our worship.

***WORSHIP HYMN** "Praise Him! Praise Him!" CH, 93

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

ALL: God of the prophets, help us to recognize your voice among the competing claims of our day. Raise up in our midst authentic witnesses to your truth. Be present with us now to guide our prayers and praise. Let us not presume to know your message without careful listening or to speak your word without discerning the Spirit. Light your fires within us so we may heed your summons and give our best in your service. 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 Deuteronomy 18:15-20

MORNING PRAYER Rev. Brown

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

OFFERTORY "Sweet Hour of Prayer" arr. Southbridge

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ALL: By giving away some of the wealth we cherish, we keep ourselves focused on who you are, gracious God, and on what you expect of us. As the body of Christ, we seek to be a healing force in our world. May the offerings we present be used in ways that encourage healthful behaviors among us in the church, within our community, and as far as our influence can reach. Receive us and our gifts, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

***THE DOXOLOGY** CH, 46

COMMUNION HYMN "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed" CH, 204 (verses only)

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, Lynne Thomas

PRAYER FOR THE CUP Elder, Diane Loftis

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

ANTHEM "Come, All Christians, Be Committed" Hayes

SERMON TEXT Mark 1:21-28

SERMON "What Have You To Do With Us, Jesus?" Rev. Brown

HYMN OF INVITATION "Spirit Song" CH, 352

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 "Dialogue" Mozart

Diaconate Serving Today
 Nina Milam, 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 January 25, 2009

WEEKLY BUDGET EXPENSES: \$4,718.00

Received for Budget:	\$ 2,447.50
Building Fund:	60.00
Memorial Fund:	
(In memory of Sylvia Dickens, Barbara White, Joey Irwin)	2,005.00
Scholarship Fund: (In memory of Joey Irwin)	25.00
Other: (Coffee/Donuts, CMF, Misc.)	25.25
TOTAL for January 25, 2009.	<u>\$ 4,562.75</u>