

## 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.

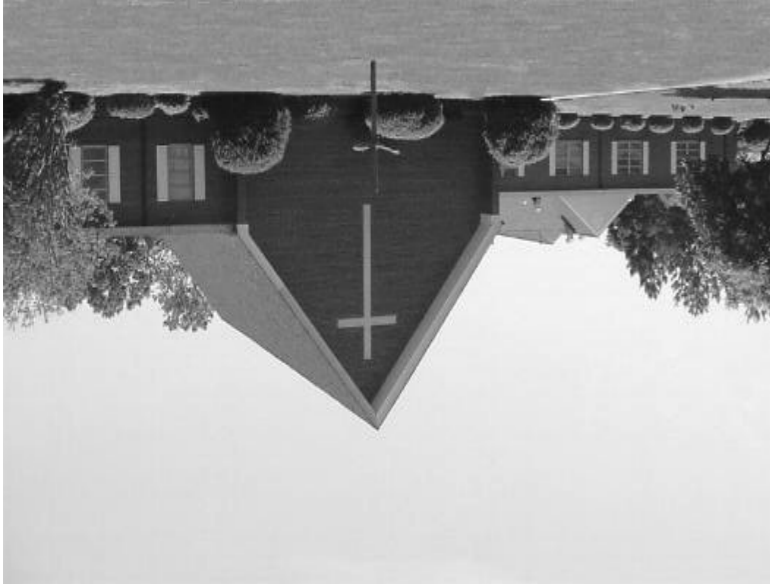
Congregations accept new members through a confession of faith and baptism or by transfer of membership from other denominations. Worship styles vary from congregation to congregation, but all observe communion each Sunday. The communion table is open to all. It is a place where we come to experience 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**  
**February 15, 2009**



**\*\*GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** "Morning Song" Brannan

**BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

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

Elder: Come to rejoice together; God is present with us.  
 Sing praises to God, all you faithful ones.

**ALL:** We are restored to life morning after morning.  
 We will extol our God, who lifts us up.

Elder: Come to be washed and cleansed, forgiven and freed.  
 Renew your commitment to the One who calls us.

**ALL:** We have come to listen to God's word to us.  
 We will give thanks to God's holy name.

Elder: Come to enter the race for an imperishable goal.  
 Proclaim the joy of serving in God's name.

**ALL:** We are here to find where God will send us.  
 We are ready to serve in Christ's name.

**\*WORSHIP HYMN** "The Voice of God Is Calling" CH, 666

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

**ALL:** We come to you, gracious God, as a community of people who realize all is not well with us. We come longing for a wholeness that eludes us. At times, we flee from you. We are afraid to let you get too close. But today we dare to enter your presence with the intention of letting you heal us and draw us close. Hear us, O God, and be gracious to us. O God, be our helper. Turn our mourning into dancing, so our souls may praise you and not be silent. Touch us with your love. 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** 2 Kings 5:1-14

**MORNING PRAYER** Rev. Brown

**MOMENT FOR MISSION** Jimmy Jarvis

**INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP**

**OFFERTORY** "Make Me a Servant" Willard

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**ALL:** Thank you, God, for the opportunity to invest in the healing ministry of the church. As we reach out to offer hope of wholeness to our fragmented world, we find new meaning for our lives. We are grateful for your faithfulness even when we do not respond. We rejoice that your love is constant through our long nights of weeping and days of suffering. Even in these moments, we celebrate the joy of giving. Amen.

**\*THE DOXOLOGY** CH, 46

**COMMUNION HYMN** "Come, Share the Lord" CH, 408

*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, Mary Redmon

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**ANTHEM** "Fill the World with Love" Edwards

**SERMON TEXT** Mark 1:40-45

**SERMON** "The Hands of Christ" Rev. Brown

**HYMN OF INVITATION** "O Jesus, I Have Promised" CH, 612

*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** "Postlude on 'Lord, Dismiss Us'" Ashford

**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 February 8, 2009**

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

Received for Budget:	\$ 2,998.00
Building Fund:	120.00
Memorial Donations:	200.00
(In memory of Joey Irwin & Sylvia Dickens)	
Week of Compassion:	65.00
Other:	42.22
(Coffee/Donuts, Yard Sale, Cans, Initial)	

**TOTAL for February 8, 2009. .... \$ 3,425.22**