

## 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.

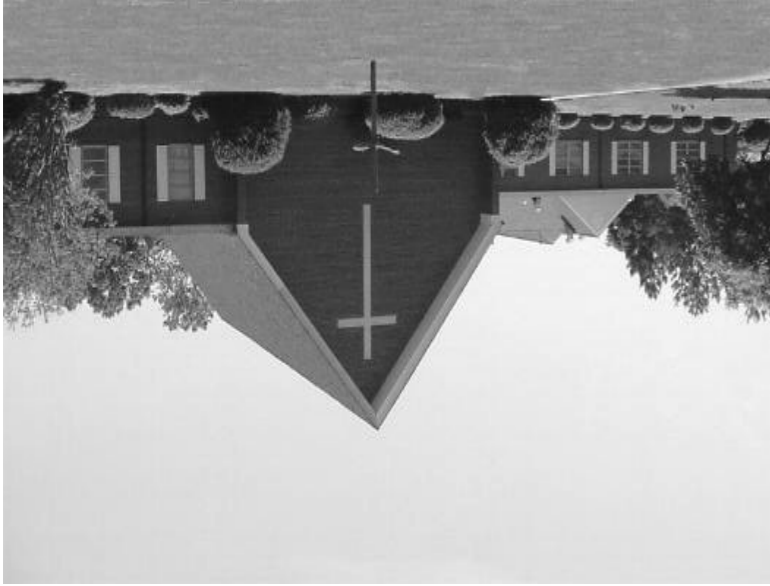
Congregations accept new members through a confession of faith and baptism or by transfer of membership from other denominations. Worship styles vary from congregation to congregation, but all observe communion each Sunday. The communion table is open to all. It is a place where we come to experience 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 22, 2009**



**\*\*GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** "Air in F Major" Handel

**BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

**\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** Elder, Tony Peris

Elder: Do not cling to old ways of doing things.  
 God is creating a new day among us.

**ALL: We have wearied of calling on God.  
 Yet our Creator offers us water in the wilderness.**

Elder: Happy are those who look beyond their own troubles.  
 All who seek to help others will find new life.

**ALL: The call of God is gentle but persistent.  
 God waits for our offer to serve in Christ's name.**

Elder: Surely God is faithful and will be with us.  
 Blessed be our God from everlasting to everlasting!

**ALL: All praise to Christ Jesus, who forgives and heals.  
 All praise to the Spirit, who makes all things new.**

**\*WORSHIP HYMN** "When Morning Gilds the Skies" CH. 100

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

**ALL:** Faithful God, we recognize your abiding "Yes" to us when we are in deep need. We come to you now, aware of the continuing issues in our lives that paralyze us and separate us from you. We have lived for so long at less than our best that we seldom recognize our need for your healing touch. We are attracted by your promise and drawn by your love. Bring healing and peace to us that we might become instruments of healing in our world. 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

**RECOGNITION AND INSTALLATION OF LEADERSHIP**

(See Insert)

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Isaiah 43:18-25

**MORNING PRAYER** Rev. Brown

**MOMENT FOR MISSION** Kaitlyn McNelis

**INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP**

**OFFERTORY** "Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling"  
 Thompson-Ham

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**ALL:** With joyous thanksgiving, we offer ourselves and our substance to honor you, our Creator. In consideration of the poor, both those who lack basic necessities and all who are spiritually destitute, we dedicate this offering. We want to be responsible stewards of all the resources gathered by our church and all the bounty you have entrusted to us individually. Show us the way, gracious God. Amen.

**\*THE DOXOLOGY** CH, 46

**COMMUNION HYMN** "Here at Thy Table, Lord" CH. 384

*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, Tony Peris

**PRAYER FOR THE CUP** Elder, Larry Hackler

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**ANTHEM** "My Master was So Very Poor" Young

**SERMON TEXT** Mark 2:1-12

**SERMON** "Unintentionally Inhibiting Jesus" Rev. Brown

**HYMN OF INVITATION** "Peace Like a River" CH. 350

*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** "Recessional" Asper

**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 15, 2009**

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

Received for Budget:	\$ 1,906.00
Building Fund:	444.00
Memorial Donations: (In memory of Joey Irwin)	130.00
Week of Compassion:	401.00
Other: (Coffee/Donuts, Flowers, Playground)	84.85

**TOTAL for February 15, 2009** ..... **\$ 2,961.85**