



The Disciple

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Disciples Christian Church Mission Statement

“As caring, compassionate followers of Jesus Christ it is the mission of Disciples Christian Church to share the Good News of Salvation. God calls to us to share this Good News with those in the community who have not heard. God calls us to spiritually nurture our church family by actively involving all in inspirational worship, education, fellowship and service to others. God calls us to care for those in need through hands on involvement within our community.”

UP//IN//OUT

UP

IN

OUT

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

-Ephesians 2:4-10 (NRSV)

As you read this article, John Pendergest is in Jamaica on a mission trip to help the underprivileged there. Carl and Susie Enfield returned from a mission trip last month. We at Disciples Christian Church are gearing up for a mission trip in June where several of our members will be traveling to New Orleans as the clean-up and rebuilding efforts there are still underway. Pastor John is going on an additional mission trip this spring. We ask for God's blessings on all of these individuals as they follow their hearts and as they listen to God's calling in their lives.

God calls each of us in some way. Not all of us hear that calling. Daily prayer and meditation is an essential part of our spiritual life. We all have busy schedules and important things we have to get done. We all seem overwhelmed at times just trying to accomplish our many tasks and

responsibilities. Taking just 10 to 20 minutes out of each day to stop and meditate, to pray to God, is more than just another item on our check-off list. This is so important to ground us and to keep things in perspective. It gives us the opportunity to be in conversation with Jesus, to put ourselves in a position where we can hear God's calling. I would encourage each of us to put aside some time each day for prayer. It can be life changing.

Outreach can take on many forms. As described above, we can go on mission trips. We can participate in local charity, such as Chosen and Serve City. We can get involved in large projects or small. We can help support any of these endeavors financially. We can just stop and help someone in need anywhere, anytime, on a personal level. We have all received many gifts from God. A gift we all have been blessed with is the ability to help one another in some way. Whether we believe it or not, we are all dependant on each other. It is God's plan that we would all support each other. The important thing to remember is to be in prayer with God and to challenge yourself. "For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life."

What outreach are you personally doing in the name of God?

Misc. News

YOUTH NEWS . . .



The youth of DCC sponsored a Baked Potato Luncheon on Sunday, March 14 and it was a big success. We decorated the Fellowship Hall in shades of green for a St. Patrick's Day theme and everyone was a bit Irish that day. This was a fundraiser for the youth and thanks to your generous donations, we raised \$245 for the youth fund. We'd like to thank those who helped decorate, provide the extra food and the clean up crew. A special thanks to Susie Enfield, who shopped at Costco for us!

It's time to begin planning for Camp Christian! The registration forms can be printed from the website, www.ccinoh.org. Plan now to attend, so you

can take advantage of the Early Bird savings...forms must be postmarked by May 1.

Chi Rho Camp – for youth in grades 6-8 (spring 2010) Aug. 8-14

CYF Camp – for youth in grades 9-12 Aug. 1-7

There is a Junior Camp for younger children, also.

Thanks to all who support the youth at DCC!

Jeri & John Pendergest

Youth Advisors

BOARD MEETING . . .

CHANGE IN DATE FOR BOARD MEETING!

April's Board meeting will be held on Thursday, April 15 at 7:30pm. All church officers are urged to attend and learn the latest news in the church. A vote will be held for the chair of the Nominating committee. Claudette Thomas has been selected for this position.

LEADERSHIP IN CHURCH TRANSFORMATION - IGNITE YOUR CHURCH

April 24, 2010

Legacy Christian Church

Harrison, Ohio

Come to this Transformation Seminar and bring your entire leadership team. There are learning experiences available for everyone. You will have the opportunity to experience Contemporary Worship and Transformational preaching from contemporaries who have been involved in Church Transformation for years.

Seminar Schedule

**8:00—9:00—Registration and
Continental Breakfast**

**9:00—10:30—Worship and
Keynote Address**

10:30—10:45—Break

**10:45—Noon—Morning
Workshops**

Noon—1:00—Lunch (Included)

1:15—2:45—Afternoon Workshops

3:00—3:30—Closing Worship

**Offering Three
Tracks in
Church**

**Leadership
Workshop**

Offerings

PASTORS:

Morning

Workshop

**Transformational Leadership — Dr. Bill McConnell, Lead Pastor,
Legacy Christian Church, Harrison, OH.**

What breakout churches, flourishing churches, missional churches have in common are pastors who possess the spiritual gift of leadership. They possess courageous leaders who continue to grow that gift, are never satisfied with where they are as leaders, develop and grow leaders themselves, and relentlessly push the edge. We are going to discuss the leadership traits required for leading a church from death to life.

Afternoon Workshop

Self Care for Those Leading in Adaptive Change - Dr. Richard Hamm

LAY LEADERS:

Morning Workshop

Developing a Ministry Plan for Transformation — Rev. Kristine Eggert, Senior Minister, Disciples Christian Church, Cleveland Heights, OH

Afternoon Workshop

Partners Serving God, Leading the Church – Rev. Michael Doerr, Pastor, Mt. Healthy Christian Church along with some of the leaders from Mt. Healthy

The relationship between pastors and volunteer leadership in the church (elders, governing board members, ministry volunteers) is a key component of church health. Room is made for God to bring transformation when pastors and leaders serve as partners in ministry.

WORSHIP LEADERS:

Morning Workshop

Worship That Challenges, Changes and Celebrates: Transformation Secrets from the Black Church Tradition - Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr., Pastor, Fifth Christian Church, Cleveland, OH

In this workshop, participants will consider the Historic Black Church and its spirituality of hope and its expectation for personal and social transformation, with special emphasis on the ways worship can challenge us, change us, and lead us into celebrating the presence of God among us.

Afternoon Workshop

Sunday Mornings in the 21st Century Church—Rev. Mark Garrett, Senior Pastor, Legacy Christian Church, Harrison, OH

This workshop will help church leaders take a fresh look at worship in this new century with one of the Disciple's most innovative pastors. The worship wars are over. It is time to move ahead. Rev. Garrett will help us look at Creative communication strategies, the expectations of modern church goers, thinking about reaching the unchurched and helping answer the question – Who's your target?

This Seminar is Featuring Rev. Dr. Richard L. "Dick" Hamm as our Keynote Speaker And Workshop Leader

KEYNOTE: LEADING IN ADAPTIVE CHANGE

Dick Hamm served as a minister of Disciples of Christ congregations for 23 years before becoming Regional Minister of Tennessee and then General Minister and President of his denomination, a post he held for ten years. He is now serving as Executive Administrator of Christian Churches Together in the USA, a new ecumenical organization.

www.christianchurchestogether.org

Dick has written three books, *From Mainline to Front Line*, 1996, Lexington Theological Seminary; *2020 Vision for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*, Chalice Press, 2001; and, *Recreating the Church: Leadership for the Post-Modern Age*, Chalice Press, 2007. As General Minister and President, Dick led the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada in developing *2020 Vision*: “to be a faithful, growing church that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality, and a passion for justice.” The Vision also calls for the achievement of the following goals by the year 2020: to establish 1000 new congregations, to revitalize 1000 congregations, to develop the leaders necessary to make this possible, and to become an anti-racist, pro-reconciling church.

Over 600 new congregations have been established so far in response to this vision (as of July, 2007). Dick writes and speaks extensively on the subject of church renewal and transformation. He is a Ministry Partner of The Columbia Partnership, a coaching/consulting organization for church leaders, congregations, and other church organizations, though his time for consulting is quite limited these days by his work with CCT.

Dick has served as a member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches and as a Vice President of the National Council of Churches. He has served as a trustee of Christian Theological Seminary and is currently a trustee of the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California. Dick and Mindy live in Indianapolis. They have two adult children and four grandchildren (all geniuses!). Dick also enjoys astronomy.

Seminar Fees

\$30 per person.

Group rate: 4 or more from the same church can register for \$20 per person. All must be registered at the same time. Payment on the day of the event—\$40 per person.

No refunds available after April 12, 2010

THANKS . . . The New Orleans Mission team wants to thank everyone for supporting our Easter Pancake Breakfast. We took in \$250 for our trip. By the way, we are planning a spaghetti luncheon after worship on May 16th.

As I see It

Wow! I can't believe the Lenten and Easter is behind us. Aren't things moving a bit too fast? Before long is will be Thanksgiving and Christmas.

But before we get there I am still basking in the afterglow of our Easter service. One of this mouse' favorite things is still the flowering of the cross. What you didn't know was that I was underneath all of those palm leaves while you were putting your flowers on the cross. In fact, some of your flowers hit ole Freddy on the head!

Another thing that was so moving was the choir's Palm Sunday drama at the end of worship. Did you know that it was your human preacher's son who played Jesus? Your human preacher wanted to play Jesus, but folks said no one would believe it!

Speaking of your human preacher; I am going to try to sneak away with him on the mission trip he is taking to New Orleans this Saturday. If you see him before he goes, please don't tell him that I looking for a way to stow away in his gear. Last time I had to wait for over 24 hours before he opened his briefcase so I could at least get some fresh air!



Until next time, Freddy

JOHN'S JOTS

I want to talk some more this month about Life Groups or Christ Huddles or Small Groups. I can't stress enough that it's through these groups that we live out the UP, IN, and OUT of the triangle. Remember it's by doing all three, we find our life in balance. Tami has been trying to help us

understand that the UP, our relationship with God, is more than just Sunday morning worship, but it also includes our daily worship of God.

It is imperative that we incorporate all 3 elements in our small groups or they will not fit into the vision of what God's calling us to do and be. Last week I read Bill McConnell's blog where he mentions that small groups are like small churches. The purpose of these groups is the same purpose as the church, to increase our love of God and humanity.

So how do we increase our love of God and humanity in these groups? We do it by sharing our lives and listening to each others stories. When we share our stories and study together, we see glimpses of God's activity in each other's lives. For many of us, these stories confirm our own experiences and serve to strengthen our faith.

One thing I know beyond a shadow of a doubt: **EVERYONE** I know is going through some hard battle. I also know, we were created for community. We were not made to do life alone. God has given us companions for this spiritual journey. So we intentionally create small groups as a way to create a space and a place for us to gather in small communities of love and grace and support. We need each other. Sharing live together raises our awareness of God's unconditional grace.

But some folks have a hard time putting their heads around a God who loves unconditionally. But think about it this way, if there wasn't unconditional love from God, then what would we have? We would have conditional love, right? If there were conditions on God's love, wouldn't that mean we would have to do all the right things or else we're in trouble? And if we had to do all the right things, wouldn't that mean that our relationship with God was predicated on doing something so that we could earn our relationship with God?

Conditional love or conditional grace, isn't good news. It means I've got to keep looking over my shoulder, worrying that I might make some fatal mistake and incur the wrath of God. God, then, becomes like a big cop in the sky just waiting to bust us. That's not good news.

So as we gather to share our lives together, we recognize that each person has received the same grace, the same unconditional love, which we cherish. This means that the person sitting in front of us or beside us in that group is just like me. Knowing that, I can see that I have a companion for the journey who knows me and accepts me for who I am, just as I can do

the same for them. Then I can share my life freely and openly. This sharing will increase our respect and appreciation for each other as we see God active in each life. This then, increases our love for one another. This is the IN of our triangle.

But what about the OUT? What about those that our outside our groups, outside our church? Guess what? They are just like us, too. But they may not know about God's grace and unconditional love or have experienced it. They are dying to know what we know and experience what we've experienced. By reaching out to them, we get to hear their stories and what we see lets us in on their secret, they are just like us and we are just like them. And by reaching out to them, we get to share our story about how God has revealed God's grace and unconditional love to us and that makes us free to reflect grace and unconditional love to them.

But we do have a problem. We have an image problem. For many of those outside of our groups and our church, have this perception that we don't love unconditionally and we don't have any grace or mercy in our souls. Some of these folks have been a part of a church at one time and they've been hurt, wounded, and burnt. Others believe this because that's the dominate theme they see when Christians are mentioned in the news. We are lumped, some days, with some folks who I'm afraid are still trying to wrap their minds around unconditional love and grace.

So do we just try to maintain a low profile, hunker down and hope no one yells at us because we're followers of Jesus? I think you know my answer to that one, don't ya?

So how do we reach out? We reach out in humility and gratitude. We listen to the stories of others and, in humility, we share our story. What we have to realize that there is power in our stories. God uses our stories to reflect God's love and grace. It's not about trying to "fix" others, it's about demonstrating the "hope that is within us." We will not have any success whatsoever trying to show others how bad they are. Folks in this day and age already believe that we're judgmental. We don't have to add to that perception. Most people just want someone to love them without any conditions. And when we do that we are in for the adventure of a lifetime!

God is looking for folks who want to go on adventure of love and grace with him. It's called being part of the kingdom of God. It's a kingdom whose power is based on unconditional love and grace.

So, if we go back to where we began, I hope that you can see that being the church isn't about structure, it isn't about formulas, it is about relationships of unconditional love and grace. Now that's a life I'm looking for. How about you? Are you looking to deepen your relationship with God and humanity? I hope so.

*Shalom,
Pastor John*

PRAYER LIST

April 2010

Lois Johnson – Shut In

Kim Vangen – her new hip has become dislocated.

Vada Lee Accirido – Lois Johnson's sister-in-law, has cancer

Hershel Estridge – Lois Johnson's cousin, dealing with health issues.

Lynn and Tad Adam's Grandmother -- ill at her home.

Ron Hurst – dealing with kidney issues.

Chosen-Prayers for the will of God in the lives of the staff and guests.

Those who lives have been affected by job loss and financial uncertainty.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Disciples Christian Church Family would like to wish members with a birthday in April a "Happy Birthday" with lots of happiness and warm memories in the year to come.

Name	Day
Tonya Storck	1
John Pendergest	2
Jake Elwell	4
Cliff Shanholtzer	17
Heather Kuckuck	23
Ellen Lewis	28

If we have forgotten anyone, please let Pastor John know. Thanks!