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Mission and Core Values

Our mission is to support and expand the ability of all Disciples ministries to worship, witness and serve. We do this by identifying and resourcing donors who desire to make a difference through planned gifts, and by assisting Disciples ministries to be good stewards of their gifts through sound policies and prudent investment services.

Integrity

Honesty, transparency, full disclosure, and the ability to fulfill our commitments.

Commitment to Excellence

Continually working to improve our services and processes and to be responsive to the needs of donors and our church.

Stewardship

Serving as trustee for donor and church dollars with the same level of commitment and care that we would have for our own resources. Understanding our purpose for being as a ministry to serve and to benefit all of the ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Fiduciary Responsibility

Prudent and diligent oversight of funds under management. Commitment to treat each donor dollar as a sacred gift, requiring the highest level of care.

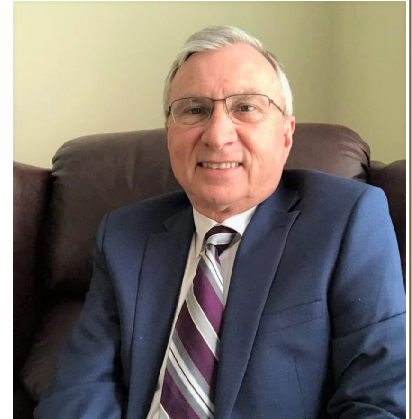
Partnership

Working to support all of the ministries of the church. Serving as an honest broker to connect ministries and donors for the benefit of the Gospel.

The Christian Church Foundation, Inc., is an integral part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It is included in the group listing of the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Inc., which carries Tax Exemption Number 1125. The General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Inc. is listed in the IRS's Publication 78 data - a list of organizations qualified to receive tax deductible contributions as described in Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code. Publication 78 data is available on the IRS website by using their Exempt Organizations Select Check at apps.irs.gov/app/eos. The complete set of 2020 financial statements, audited by BKD, LLP, is available by calling the Foundation at (800) 668-8016 or by visiting our website, www.christianchurchfoundation.org.

President's Message

Like the Israelites who found themselves lost on their journey to the Promised Land, many around our world found themselves unsettled in the wilderness desert of 2020. The Hebrew people's experience of not knowing how long their journey would take, or who among them would survive and who wouldn't, all felt eerily close to what our communities experienced last year. The wilderness is unsettling and frightening. It can be lonely, painful, and discouraging. Yet, as the Hebrews learned, God kept showing up and God kept providing. God provided wilderness food, found in the form of manna, a simple substance that fell from the sky each night. It wasn't fancy fare, but it kept them alive.



There were plenty of signs of God's care and providence in the wilderness of 2020. Gifts and deposits to the Foundation exceeded \$36 million in 2020. The Foundation's total assets under management reached a new record last year: \$943 million. Distributions for ministry from permanent funds and other gifts at the Foundation last year reached \$9.9 million, a new record. Manna from Heaven!

Throughout this Annual Report we highlight some of the manna we witnessed last year. Chris and Cal Moore from Marion, Iowa, decided last year that they wanted to see their gifts make a difference now, so they started a permanent fund that will provide scholarships to needy students. The Gaffney family from Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, used the pandemic experience to plan and implement their family's legacy through a permanent fund at the Foundation that each year will send dollars to the ministries they love. The assets from a conference center in eastern Washington State now support youth and camping ministry in the Northern Lights Region. Geist Christian Church saw the number of Legacy Partners grow even while they were unable to gather in person. Ninety individuals at Geist have either made a lifetime endowment gift to the congregation or have committed to doing so. These are just a sampling of the abundant manna which miraculously appeared in 2020.

Last year we celebrated the ministry of Jerry Lang that graced the Foundation for nine years and the church for over 40 years. Jerry retired on December 31, 2020, as Vice President of the Mountain West Zone. Monica Myers Greenberg joined the Foundation staff on January 1, 2021, as the new Vice President for the Mountain West Zone. Monica is a graduate of Bethany College and Brite Divinity School. Since 2002, Monica served as Senior Minister of Northwest Christian Church, Seattle, WA, and has been an active leader in the Regional and General Church. The Mountain West Zone includes the Northern Lights, Central Rocky Mountain, Oregon/Southwest Idaho, and Northern California/Nevada Regions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

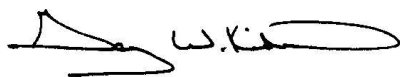
All along the wilderness of 2020, God provided manna. The Israelites did not volunteer for wilderness duty, and neither did we. None of us could have imagined at the start of 2020 how difficult and bewildering life would become. The journey has been anything but easy. Yet God was present, sustaining us, guiding us, and teaching us to live by faith.

Thank you for your support throughout the challenges of 2020. More importantly, thank you for remaining faithful. You did not allow a shaky world to rob you of your generosity. You were an inspiration to all of us at the Foundation.

I learned from Disciples of Christ Historical Society President and Hebrew Bible scholar Dr. Richard Lowery that the word manna literally means “what is it?” So every day during their wilderness wanderings the Hebrews nurtured their faith by taking in the question, “What is it Lord? What is it that you are doing?”

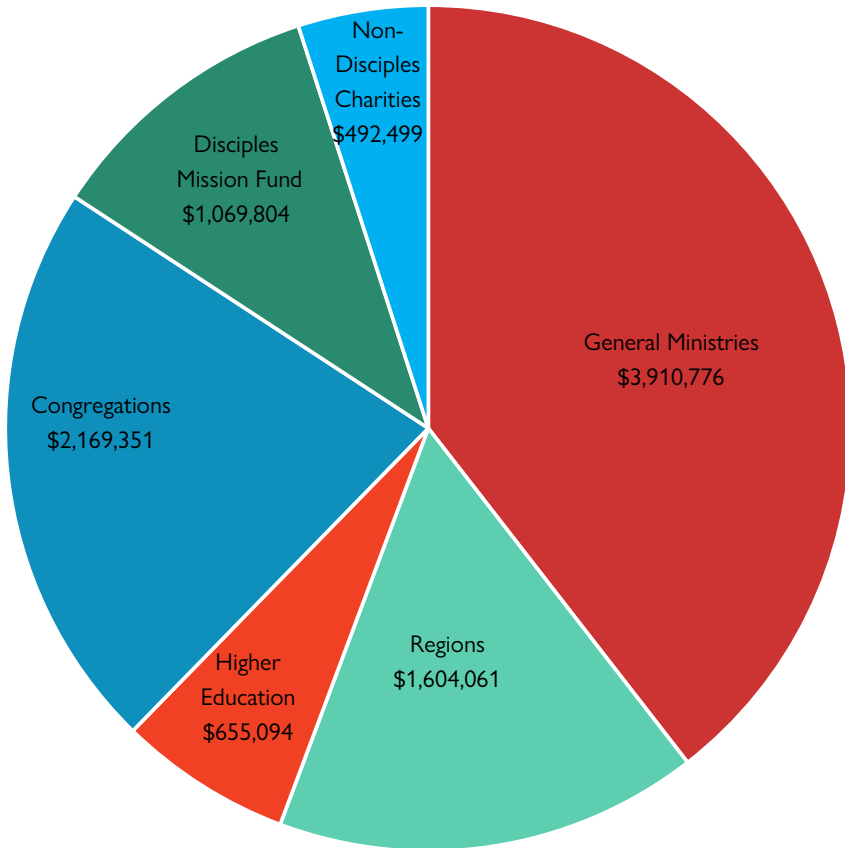
May that great question be our guide now and for whatever journey might be ahead.

Blessings.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary W. Kidwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gary W. Kidwell, President
Christian Church Foundation

Total Charitable Distributions from Permanent Funds & Other Gifts



2020 Distributions

Five-Year History

2020	\$9,901,585
2019	\$9,228,360
2018	\$8,844,280
2017	\$8,995,129
2016	\$7,987,588

The Foundation's joyful purpose is to help Disciples move money to mission. We are a donor-driven foundation. Distributions from funds owned or administered by the Foundation go to the charitable beneficiaries selected by their donors. The distributions shown above are from funds permanently invested at the Foundation, donor-advised or directed funds, as well as from the charitable residual of gifts that benefited individuals during their lifetimes, and then created a charitable gift. The Foundation also serves as the investment manager for investments owned by other ministries. Those investments provide significant additional distributions for ministry, which are not included in the totals shown above.

2020 Highlights

New Permanent Fund Gifts

\$6,199,276

Investment Account Deposits

\$28,436,584

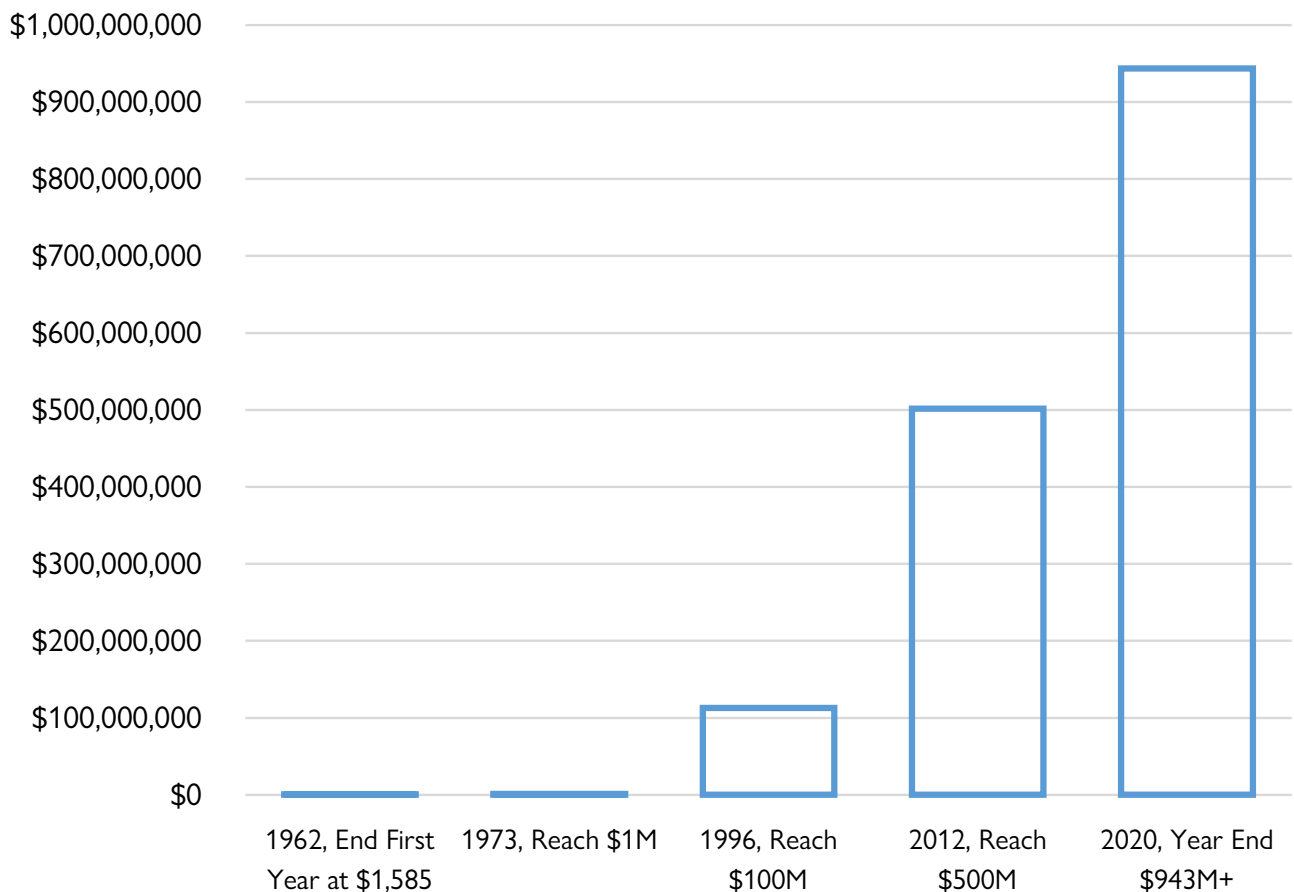
Total New Gifts Under Management

\$7,075,271

Total Assets

\$943,691,399

Total Assets: Historical Milestones



Joint Investment Trust

The focus of the Foundation's investment program is moving money to mission. The Foundation's Joint Investment Trust was established to help ministries of the Christian Church maximize their resources for ministry while meeting their legal and stewardship requirements. The purpose of the Joint Investment Trust is to provide ministry dollars that expand the witness of Disciples ministries.

Endowment fund stewards are called to balance current and future ministry needs. The Foundation addresses this call by selecting an asset mix that balances risks and rewards in diversified portfolios designed for long-term investors. Foundation staff work alongside our investment consultant and investment committee to evaluate long-term asset allocation expectations and assess each investment manager's performance. We work with the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, adding our voices to those of other shareholder advocates who view the management of their investments as a catalyst for social change. Our work frees investors to focus on their members and mission. By jointly investing gifts entrusted to hundreds of ministries, participants in the Foundation's Joint Investment Trust enjoy efficiencies of scale beyond the capacity of any individual investor. The Foundation works with local and legacy congregations, regions, general ministries, and other ministries of the church to support and expand the ability of all Disciples ministries to worship, witness and serve. Our partner investors include all expressions of the church which partner with us through our Joint Investment Trust.

At the end of 2020, ministries of the Christian Church, including the Foundation, had jointly invested \$881.7 million in the Joint Investment Trust. Working together, we will continue to share our story of faithfulness through growing the resources necessary for today's ministries – and move money to mission for generations to come.

Partner Investors Include:

Congregations

690

Higher Education
Institutions

9

General Ministries and
Recognized Organizations

38

Regions, Areas, and
Affiliated Ministries

62

Joint Investment Trust Returns as of December 31, 2020

Fund	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Since Inception
Common Balanced	10.80%	7.16%	8.91%	6.51%	7.5% (Dec. 1985)
Beasley Growth	11.51%	7.69%	9.45%	7.90%	8.8% (Dec. 1985)
Campbell Multi-Strategy	8.99%	6.41%	8.21%	5.84%	4.3% (Feb. 2008)
Bostick Select	13.86%	N/A	N/A	N/A	17.1% (Jan. 2019)
Brown Income	10.46%	6.83%	7.56%	4.59%	5.8% (Dec. 1989)

The **Common Balanced Fund** seeks total return from a moderate asset allocation with an emphasis on capital appreciation and income. Through a multi-manager approach, the Fund invests in a broad range of equity and bond subset classes including domestic and international equity, fixed income, and real assets. The target asset mix is 53.5% in equities, 31.5% in fixed income and 15% in real assets.

The **Beasley Growth Fund** seeks total return from a moderately aggressive asset allocation with an emphasis on capital appreciation. Through a multi-manager approach, the Fund invests in both domestic and international equities and fixed income. The targeted asset mix is 76% in equities and 24% in fixed income.

The **Campbell Multi-Strategy Fund** seeks total return from a moderately aggressive asset allocation with hedging strategies. Through a multi-manager approach, the Fund invests in a broad range of asset classes, including domestic and international equities, flexible capital, real assets, and fixed income. The target asset mix is 65% in equities, 20% in flexible capital, 10% in real assets and 5% in fixed income.

The **Bostick Select Fund** seeks total return from a moderately aggressive asset allocation with select social screens. Through a multi-manager approach, the Fund invests in both domestic and international equities, domestic fixed income and real assets. The targeted asset mix is 70% in equities, 21.25% in fixed income, and 8.75% in real assets.

The **Brown Income Fund** seeks total return from a conservative asset allocation with an emphasis on income. Through a multi-manager approach, the Fund invests in domestic and global bonds, equities, and real assets. The target asset mix is 65% in fixed income, 25% in equities, and 10% in real assets.

2020 Board of Directors



Chair
Todd Reed, CPA
Business Executive Bottom
Line Services
Walton, KY



Vice Chair
Ted Waggoner
Attorney
Peterson Waggoner &
Perkins LLP
Rochester, IN



**Chair, Investment
Committee**
Dean Buffington
Investment Advisor
Buffington, Mohr
McNeal Investments
Boise, ID



**Chair, Nominating
Committee**
Samuel Robles, Jr.
Pastor
Orlando, FL



**Chair, Budget &
Program Committee**
Joanne VerBurg
Clergy (Retired)
Black Mountain, NC



**Chair, Audit
Committee**
Sharon Worley, CPA
Ian D. Gardenswartz &
Associates
Denver, CO



Marvin Anderson
Private Wealth Manager
US Trust Bank
St. Louis, MO



Marty Askins
Business Executive
Stephens County
Abstract Co.
Duncan, OK



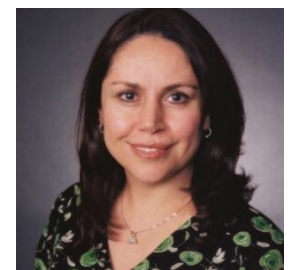
Dwayne Bell
Owner-President
Excel Real Estate
Nashville, TN



Bob Bock
Senior Minister
First Christian Church
North Hollywood, CA



Reggie Chapman
Senior Minister
Lakewood Christian Church
Lakewood, CO



Gita Gardner
Architect
Hendessi & Assoc.
Atlanta, GA



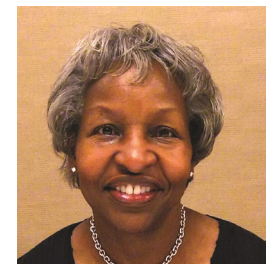
Debbie Jennison
Businesswoman (Retired)
Spokane, WA



Jeff King
Fort Worth Region President
Northern Trust
Fort Worth, TX



Linda Hull
Development Officer
(Retired)
Jacksonville, FL



Dana Barnes Lee
Social Services (Retired)
Roanoke, VA

2020 Board of Directors



Angela McDonald-Fisher
Attorney
Eaton Corporation
Beachwood, OH



Heather Simpson
Senior Minister
Central Christian Church
Uniontown, PA



Tanya Tyler
Senior Minister
First Christian Church
Ruidoso, NM



Christal Williams
Regional Minister and
President Christian Church
in Tennessee
Nashville, TN

Ex-Officio Members



David Yonker
Senior Minister
First Christian Church
Burlington, IA

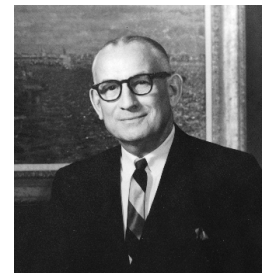


Gary W. Kidwell
President
Christian Church Foundation
Indianapolis, IN



Terri Hord Owens
General Minister and President
Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Indianapolis, IN

Endowing Founder



Theodore Prentis Beasley
1900-1984

In Memoriam



Dean Buffington served on the Christian Church Foundation Board of Directors for eight years, chairing the Investment Committee for several years. In December 2020, Dean lost his battle with COVID-19. Dean's keen mind and kind heart made him special to everyone at the Foundation, his fellow Board members, and all those who had the privilege of knowing him. Dean was a member of Red Rock Christian Church in Boise, Idaho.

The Foundation is grateful for Dean's service on our Board and for his deep love of the Church. We continue to pray for and remember the Buffington family and the families of all those who lost loved ones in 2020. May the love and healing presence of God be with you always.



Christian Church Foundation, Inc.
Consolidated Statements of Financial Position
December 31, 2020 and 2019

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Assets		
Cash	\$ 353,379	\$ 577,047
Marketable securities and other investments	942,373,727	852,550,340
Property and equipment – net	100,723	128,482
Contributions receivable	646,027	2,703,571
Other assets	<u>217,543</u>	<u>180,189</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 943,691,399</u>	<u>\$ 856,139,629</u>
Liabilities		
Non-endowment funds		
Partner investment accounts	\$ 637,559,237	\$ 574,313,923
Liability to income beneficiaries under life-income gifts	20,383,752	19,835,843
Liability to charitable beneficiaries under life-income gifts	10,247,262	9,047,134
Other liabilities	<u>727,539</u>	<u>711,980</u>
Total non-endowment funds	<u>668,917,790</u>	<u>603,908,880</u>
Endowment funds held for the benefit of others		
Managed for the benefit of the charitable entity donor	23,709,202	21,400,005
Restricted purposes for other charitable beneficiaries	<u>13,012,378</u>	<u>12,482,779</u>
Total endowment funds held for the benefit of others	<u>36,721,580</u>	<u>33,882,784</u>
Total liabilities	<u>705,639,370</u>	<u>637,791,664</u>
Net Assets		
Without donor restrictions	42,425,739	38,779,973
With donor restrictions	<u>195,626,290</u>	<u>179,567,992</u>
Total net assets	<u>238,052,029</u>	<u>218,347,965</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 943,691,399</u>	<u>\$ 856,139,629</u>

The complete set of 2020 audited financial statements can be found by visiting our website, www.christianchurchfoundation.org or by calling the Foundation at (800) 668-8016.

Leaders for the Future: Black Disciples Endowment Fund

In 1991, Rev. Dr. John R. Compton, along with other leaders of National Convocation, had a vision to begin an endowment fund that would undergird the ministry and witness of black Disciples. Black



Disciples Endowment Fund, BDEF, was born from this vision and is now comprised of numerous named funds honoring individuals throughout the life of the church.

BDEF has grown significantly since its inception and continues to enhance the ministry for Black Disciples. Jackie Compton Bunch, current BDEF chair, states “Born out of a vision over 30 years ago, BDEF continues to serve the whole Church by helping to undergird the Black church. Built on offerings and legacy donations that memorialize the vision, wisdom, and love for the Church, BDEF’s ministry continues to witness for and to the Church carrying out the founding vision of the Fund.”

BDEF provides resources to accomplish its stated goals of training and leadership development for clergy and laity and equipping congregations for growth, vitality, and advocacy for the black community. Through an annual granting process, congregations have received funds to expand ministry opportunities and to meet the needs of underserved populations. BDEF has also worked in conjunction with other ministries to accomplish the goals of the founding leaders. Recently, BDEF partnered with Lexington Theological Seminary to support the Certificate in African American Ministries program.

BDEF has provided resources for workshops during National Convocation, General Assembly, and for the African American Institute of Faith and Life, which is held during the biennial session of National Convocation. It also provides resources and scholarships for the annual Black Ministers Retreat.

Ms. Bunch shared that the COVID-19 pandemic has offered the Black Disciples Endowment Fund the opportunity to re-envision some of their ministry offerings by adding more virtual opportunities for connection and training for both clergy and laity throughout the life of the church.

Geist Christian Church, Indianapolis & Fishers, Indiana

Sue Myer, together with her late husband Rev. Norman Myer, has always been passionate about expanding ministries through endowment income. In a video message to the congregation, Sue shared why she is



inspired by endowments and the ministry that income can make possible, saying, “We are grateful for what has been, what is, and what will come. Please carefully consider joining me in becoming a member of the Geist Legacy Society.”

With testimonies like Sue’s, Geist Christian Church has been able to identify 90 individuals who have given to their endowment fund, or who have promised end-of-life gifts to the congregation. Three years ago, that number was 15. Lead Pastor, Ryan Hazen, says, “Geist Legacy Partners developed a bit like a snowball starting to roll down a hill. It was small at first, and we had to help it along, but as it gained momentum, we were able to stand back and just marvel at its growth! It is the power of passionate church leaders and members putting their own end-of-life gift plans in place that creates this momentum.”

The idea of promoting end-of-life giving at Geist started years before the process finally began. Leaders were busy and the time never seemed quite right. This is not unusual. Churches often hesitate, fearing that people don’t want to talk about death or money. Foundation Vice President Randy Johnson, says, “The idea seems daunting until churches actually begin. After they begin, fears fade away and they begin to experience how exciting and life-giving the process is!” The biggest surprise for Geist was how energizing the process was, even before the gifts started arriving. Rev. Hazen says, “As members have learned about Geist Legacy Partners and have watched the list of individuals and families grow, they want to be a part of it. People are excited about what their gifts can mean for the future of our church.”

Making Every Day Count Christine & Calvin Moore

When Christine “Chris” Moore and her Foundation zone representative, Kirby Gould, talked in the spring, the COVID-19 pandemic had just begun. Chris shared that she was witnessing food insecurity in her community as children who now had to stay home had no access to meals. Chris supported her niece, a school principal, who was purchasing groceries for families in her community.



Two weeks later, Chris called Kirby so they could talk again, and Chris brought up the permanent fund gift agreement she and her late husband, Calvin, had created several years prior. Originally, the plan for the permanent

fund was that it would receive a bequest upon Chris’ death and begin to make distributions to the Marion Christian Church, Marion, Iowa scholarship fund. This scholarship fund, through the Moores’ home congregation, helps college students and students attending seminary. During their second phone call, Chris said, “I don’t want to wait until I die for our permanent fund to be established. I want to do it now, so I can see the students who will benefit from my gift.”

Chris is looking forward to having a relationship with the students who will receive scholarships and seeing the difference they will make in the community and the world. Chris reflected, 2020 “has been a learning curve. It has caused me to slow down and appreciate everything I have. I want to make each day count.” Indeed, Chris and Calvin have made every day count and will continue to do so for many years to come.

Good Shepherd Christian Church Houston, Texas

Since March 2020, Good Shepherd Christian Church of Houston, Texas, has been meeting online and has experienced increased membership and worship participation. When Covid-19 disrupted all normal activity, the congregation prayerfully determined that it was an unexpected opportunity to sell the church property. The surrounding community was in significant transition, members did not live close by, there had been several instances of vandalism and burglaries at the church, and, in recent years, several developers had approached the congregation about purchasing their three-acre property.

When considering their options and discerning where God was calling them, the congregation worked from the premise that its two most valuable assets were the members and the property. Within six months, the sale of the property was complete and Good Shepherd had invested the proceeds from the sale in their existing accounts with the Christian Church Foundation. Linda Norwood, Congregational Board Chair, said that the income stream from the investment increases the impact of the congregation's ministry.

Judy Monroe, a longtime member, stated that the resources that were used to maintain the property will be better utilized serving people. Monroe noted, "people are struggling and what we spend for insurance, utilities, and other items, could buy food, pay rent, and help folks survive." Good Shepherd plans to be an online congregation with special opportunities to meet in homes and with sister congregations once the pandemic is over.

2020 brought great challenges and change for Good Shepherd, but with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the creative vision of the congregation, 2020 was also the catalyst for a new and exciting ministry. Thanks be to God!



Life-Changing Generosity Bill & Bicky Schiphorst



William and Elizabeth Schiphorst, known by most as Bill and Bicky, have lived their lives serving others. Bill was the founding pastor of the

Hurstbourne Christian Church in Louisville, Kentucky where he served for 33 years. In retirement, he continued serving at Christian Church Homes of Kentucky, now Christian Care Communities. Bicky served as a teacher, first in Pre-K, then moved eventually to the 5th grade for most of her career. The Schiphorsts love the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and find great joy in supporting many Disciples ministries close to their hearts.

In 2010, Bill and Bicky established a permanent fund at the Christian Church Foundation that will support ministries important to them in perpetuity. Early in Bill's ministry, an active member of the church told Bill "Next year you'll be getting a salary increase but you won't be seeing it. Instead, it will be deposited into a tax deferred account at the Pension Fund." Bill and Bicky recall that this was a life-changing pattern for them and is one of the reasons that they are financially able to contribute to this fund which means so much to them.

Recently, they began making annual contributions to the fund and have also named the fund to receive additional gifts at the end of their lives. "We have been so very blessed by our journey in the Church!" described Bill and Bicky. "We believe that life, with all of its fullness, is a gift from God! We wanted to find a way to pass these blessings on to others. We believe in and trust the ministry of the Christian Church Foundation, so it seemed right to establish a permanent fund with the Foundation. Through regular distributions from this fund, we believe others will receive these blessings for years to come."

The Gift of Camp Zephyr Heritage Fund

For over 60 years, Zephyr Christian Conference Grounds in Washington provided a peaceful setting for summer camps and retreats, serving the needs of the church. Several years ago, declining use, rising cost, and needed repairs caused the 13 congregations who owned Zephyr to decide to sell the campground. They decided to invest the funds to support camps, youth programs, and other ministries across the region.

In 2020, the Board of Directors of the Zephyr Heritage Fund took a further step to make sure that the proceeds from the sale of this sacred place would continue to provide for vital ministries in the Northern Lights Region of the Christian Church. According to Board member Debbie Jennison, “In the fall of 2020, the Zephyr Heritage Board took the bold step to pass on stewardship of the Zephyr Heritage Fund to the Christian Church Foundation. The original funds from the sale of Zephyr Christian Conference Grounds were already in investment funds with the Foundation and the board oversaw the disbursement of those funds. We felt it was time to take the next step and move those funds into a Permanent Trust Fund, the Zephyr Heritage Fund, and allow the Foundation to handle the disbursement based on criteria established by the Zephyr Heritage Board. It was a unanimous decision to establish this permanent fund which we know will serve congregations and individuals in the Northern Lights region for many years to come.”

Distributions from the Zephyr Heritage Fund will be sent to the member congregations of the Christian Church Conference Grounds and the Northern Lights Region. The Region’s portion of the proceeds will be used for two vital purposes: continuing the legacy of Zephyr Christian Conference Grounds by supporting programs of camps, conferences, and retreats and supporting “creative initiatives contributing to the vitality of the Region and its local congregations” as directed by the Zephyr Heritage Fund gift agreement.

Sandy Messick, Transitional Regional Minister, says, “The Northern Lights Region is grateful to receive the ongoing legacy gifts from the Zephyr Heritage Fund. These annual gifts will help support our youth and camping ministry as well as provide resources for creative transformation projects in the region and in our congregations. Zephyr was a beloved Christian Conference Center for decades where generations of young Christians learned about their faith and experienced Christian fellowship on those hallowed grounds. Now, with the vision of the Zephyr Heritage Fund Board, generations to come will be blessed by this legacy and continue to experience the love of Christ and the grace of God through the stewardship and wisdom of those who have gone before.”



Gwinwood
Camp 2019

Camp supported by
Zephyr Heritage Fund

Positive Difference: The Gaffney Family Fund

Throughout his ministry, Donald Gaffney served as a bi-vocational minister working with churches in transition. In that role, Rev. Gaffney was given the opportunity to witness congregations as they ended their visible ministries. He saw first-hand how meaningful it was when congregations were able to continue their faithful legacy by establishing funds with the Christian Church Foundation. He says, "I've seen the positive difference the establishment of those funds has made to the members of those congregations and the recipients of those legacy gifts – a difference in helping to assure the sustainability of important ministries."

Having witnessed the difference that congregational legacy funds can make in the world, Don and his wife, Diane, had a conversation with their sons, Paul and Jonathan. They all knew that they could make the same kind of "positive difference" with a legacy of their own. Rev. Gaffney said, "It was natural for me to think of taking steps to establish a continuing legacy as my visible ministry winds down." All four members of the Gaffney family were involved in starting the fund and in deciding which ministries they wanted to benefit from their fund.

Don shared that it was hard to narrow down which ministries their gift would go to because there are so many that their family is passionate about. Ultimately, though, he said, "Week of Compassion and Reconciliation Ministries encapsulate the Good News of the Gospel to us, so the decision to support these ministries was easy." They also agreed to leave smaller gifts to the Disciples affiliated colleges that Paul and Jonathan attended.

Even in an uncertain year and an uncertain world, the Gaffney family has chosen to leave a legacy of their faithfulness and do all they can to make a difference in the world.



Fiers-Brown Society

Rev. A. Dale Fiers was the first General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and was instrumental in the organization and early support of the Christian Church Foundation. His wife, Betty, was equally dedicated to the church, serving for four years as the president of the International Christian Women's Fellowship. They both were dedicated to their faith and to the future of the church.



DeWitt & Othel Brown

Othel and DeWitt Brown, Rev. Fiers's sister and brother-in-law, were a quiet, faithful couple in Charlotte, North Carolina. They were known throughout their community for being remarkably dedicated to their shared work at their magazine and paperback distributorship, Dixie News Inc. The Browns believed in the importance of all forms of generosity. One of Othel's favorite quotes was, "What we do for ourselves alone dies with us. What we do for others and the world, remains and is immortal."

What these modest, dedicated Disciples did for the Christian Church as they offered their gifts in service has, indeed, lived on and continues to bless others. At Othel Brown's death, she left a gift that will forever continue her and DeWitt's giving to others: an \$8 million gift through the Christian Church Foundation. It was, at the time, the largest gift ever received by a Protestant denomination in this country. The Fiers-Brown Society was created in April 1995 to honor the lives of Dale, Betty, DeWitt, and Othel, as well as all those who have done one or more of the following:

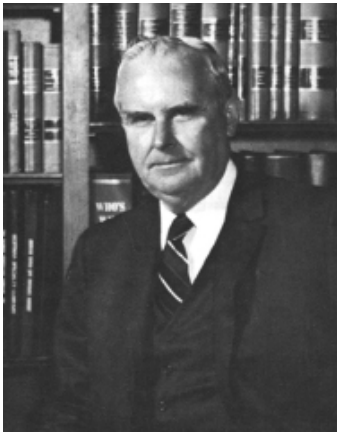


A. Dale & Betty Fiers

- Established a named permanent fund with the Foundation;
- Completed a life-income gift with the Foundation;
- Completed beneficiary designations, wills, trusts or other agreements that will create a future permanent fund with the Foundation.

We invite you to join the more than 1,700 individuals who belong to the Christian Church Foundation's Fiers-Brown Society by creating a planned gift or permanent fund through the Christian Church Foundation.

Harry T. Ice Distinguished Service Award



Mr. Harry T. Ice

The Harry T. Ice Distinguished Service Award was created by the Foundation in 1984 to recognize excellence in philanthropy within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The award honors Harry T. Ice, founder of the Indianapolis-based law firm, Ice Miller LLP. Mr. Ice served on the original Blue Ribbon committee that led to the creation of the Foundation as a general unit of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in 1969. He served on the first Board of Directors and was the Foundation's general counsel. He also held leadership positions within the Pension Fund, Christian Theological Seminary and other church entities. Mr. Ice died in 1982.

Award recipients demonstrate personal generosity, leadership in philanthropy, and a love of and commitment to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Past recipients are:

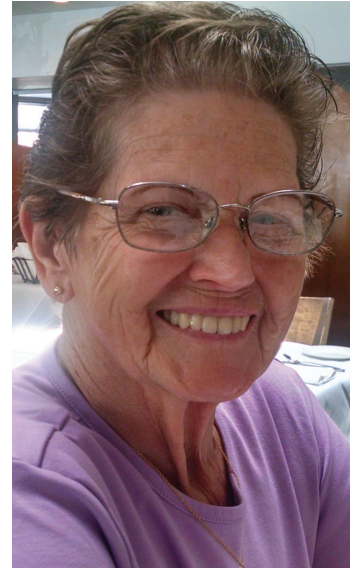
- 1984 James R. Reed
- 1987 Joe and Nancy Vaughn Stalcup
- 1989 Hannah Younghusband
- 1991 Marvin G. Osborn
- 1996 Sam and Mary Howard
- 2002 Evelyn and Hal Watkins
- 2004 Allan and Marie Brady
- 2009 Bill and Benny Robertson
- 2012 Huberto and Arlene Pimentel
- 2013 Virginia and Frank Winker
- 2014 Oscar Haynes
- 2017 Dick and Dolores Lofton
- 2019 Edith Kelly-Green
- 2019 Nathan and Claudia Higginbotham

Delores “Dee” Clark 2020 Harry T. Ice Award Recipient

Dee Clark is an active member of her local congregation, South Broadway Christian Church, where she is known for her personal contributions of time and talent to the congregation and for her heart for stewardship. Dee loves both the mission of the church and her family and this love was the driving factor for her when she was considering her estate plans. After conversations with her pastor, family, and Jerry Lang, Christian Church Foundation Vice President for the Mountain West Zone, Dee was able to put plans in place that reflect her generous spirit and her love for her church and family.

Dee understands and fully believes that each person can make a difference in the world through generosity. Thanks to Dee’s generosity, her family, her congregation, the Central Rocky Mountain Region, and a local ministry working with at-risk children, among other ministries, will receive distributions for their life and ministry in perpetuity. Dee makes a difference in the lives of all those she comes in contact with and will continue to make a difference in the life of the church for years to come. Rev. Jerry Lang says, “The only thing more remarkable than Dee’s generosity is her gentleness, kindness, and humility. It is a privilege to celebrate Dee with the Harry T. Ice Award.”

We look forward to celebrating Dee’s generosity with an in-person award presentation at the Christian Church Foundation board meeting in November, 2021.



James P. Johnson Stewardship Award

The James P. Johnson Stewardship Award, created in 2003 in honor of Foundation President Emeritus James Johnson, recognizes a congregation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) that has demonstrated leadership, creativity, and integrity in answering God's call to faithful stewardship, including the faith discipline involved in the stewardship of accumulated resources.

Nominations for the James P. Johnson Stewardship Award are provided by Foundation staff and members of the Board of Directors, and approved by the Board of Directors.

Past recipients are:

- 2003 James P. Johnson
- 2005 Central Christian Church, Decatur, IL
- 2007 University Christian Church, Fort Worth, TX
- 2009 First Christian Church, Bowling Green, KY
- 2011 First Christian Church, North Hollywood, CA
- 2013 Sandy Springs Christian Church, Sandy Springs, GA
- 2015 Washington Christian Church, Elyria, OH
- 2017 Cherry Log Christian Church, Cherry Log, GA
- 2019 First Christian Church, Minneapolis, MN
- 2020 First Christian Church, Midland, TX



James P. Johnson, President Emeritus, Christian Church Foundation

First Christian Church, Midland, Texas 2020 James P. Johnson Stewardship Award Recipient

First Christian Church Midland, Texas, is the embodiment of the hope and success that happens when congregations are willing to live into God's call for their mission. In 2009, when Senior Minister Rev. Mike Hunter, arrived at FCC Midland, the congregation was not sure where they were being called and they were using their building primarily for Sunday morning worship. Now, the congregation has a daily preschool program, feeds over 500 people each week through their food bank, and shares space with multiple local ministries throughout the week.



First Christian Church, Midland, Texas

Rev. Hunter shares that this transformation took place because the congregation was “willing to lead with stewardship.” FCC has a long history of stewardship and chose to lean into stewardship as a spiritual discipline. The congregations endowment has distributed more than \$271,00 to outreach, property, capital expenses, and other ministries since 1998. Additionally, they have three different endowed scholarship funds for students. From these three funds, 107 students have received scholarships of over \$202,200.

In addition to their local and congregational outreach, FCC has been a consistent and faithful partner to the Southwest Region and to the General Church. Members of their staff and congregation serve on Regional and General Boards and are involved with youth work and the Commission on Ministry in the Southwest Region. Bobby Hawley, Christian Church Foundation South Central Zone Vice President, shares, “they have consistently been at the top of per capita giving to Disciples outreach and total outreach.”



Presentation of the JPJ Stewardship Award,
December 2020

From L: Rev. Heather Reed (Regional Staff),
Rev. Mike Hunter (Sr. Min. FCC Midland),
Rev. Bobby Hawley (VP, CCF), Rev. Remy
Tercero (Assoc. Min. FCC Midland)

When speaking about FCC, Bobby Hawley says, “It is a joy and honor to celebrate First Christian Church, Midland, Texas, with the JPJ Stewardship Award. This congregation has partnered with the Christian Church Foundation to establish and grow endowment funds for over 20 years. Because of the faithfulness and generosity of many of their members, their managed funds with the Christian Church Foundation have grown from just over \$100K to over \$1M during that time. Their current Senior Minister, Mike Hunter, has challenged them to continue to grow in their stewardship and they have responded faithfully.” The Christian Church Foundation is honored to recognize the work, ministry, and stewardship of First Christian Church, Midland, Texas, with the 2020 James P. Johnson Stewardship Award.

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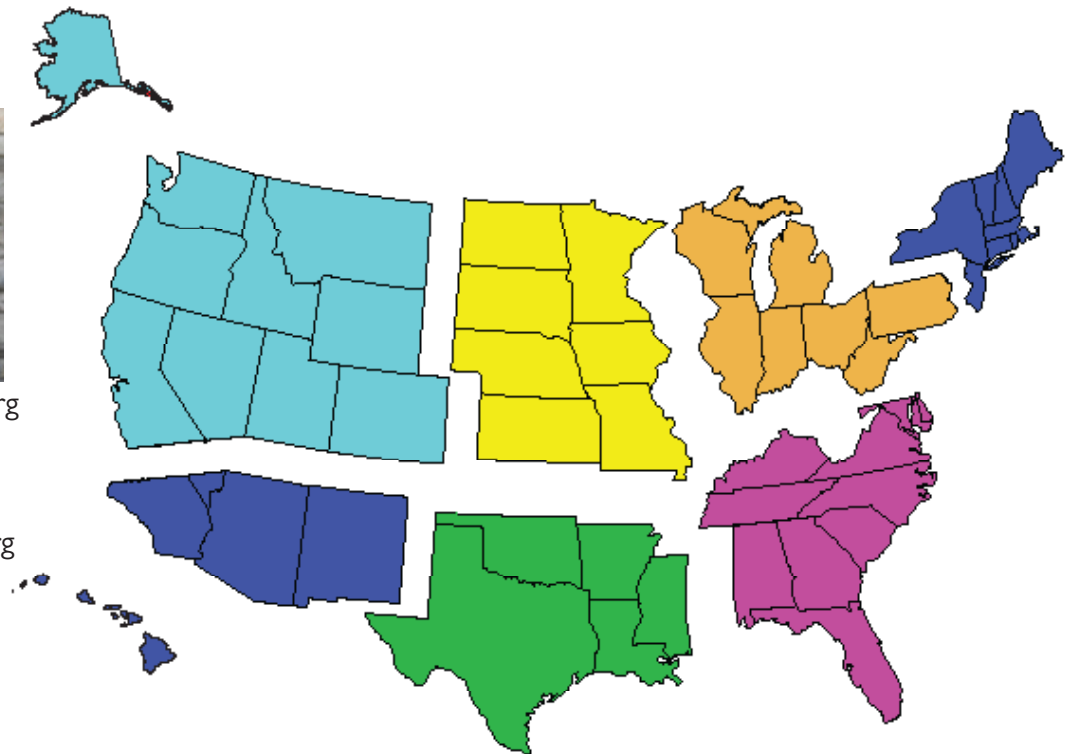
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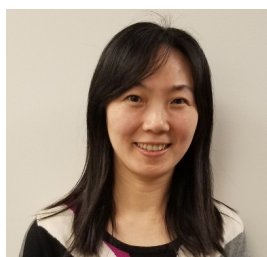
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Assistant,
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