

## 2019 Annual Report



# *Can You Imagine?*



**CHRISTIAN CHURCH FOUNDATION**

*Helping Disciples Make a Difference*

# Table of Contents

President's Message .....	02
A Year in Review .....	04
Investment Results .....	06
Board of Directors .....	08
Consolidated Statements of Financial Position .....	10
Annual Gifts .....	11
Named Permanent & Steward's Donor-Advised Funds .....	12
Life-Income Gifts .....	39
Fiers-Brown Society .....	41
Harry T. Ice Distinguished Service Award .....	42
James P. Johnson Stewardship Award .....	43
Foundation Staff .....	44

## *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](https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos). The complete set of 2019 financial statements, audited by BKD, LLP, is available by calling the Foundation at (800) 668-8016 or by visiting our website, [www.christianchurchfoundation.org](http://www.christianchurchfoundation.org).

## President's Message

Can you imagine? That question precedes every great achievement. Imagination is what makes human beings truly exceptional. At the Foundation, we help faithful people imagine how their lives can make a difference--forever. This annual report is a celebration of those faithful people and the powerful impact their legacies are having for our church and in our world.

2019 was an outstanding year for the Foundation. A few highlights from the year:

- Assets under management increased 27% last year--reaching a new record of \$856 million
- Total gifts and deposits in 2019 were \$81.1 million--a new record
- Permanent fund gifts in 2019 totaled \$11.8 million--a new record
- Charitable trusts in 2019 totaled \$6.2 million--a new record.



The financial strength of the Foundation provided us with another opportunity to share that strength with our ministry partners through a significant cost reduction for our investors. We lowered the base cost recovery for investors 33% as of January 1, 2020. This major and long-planned accomplishment will mean more dollars for our ministry partners to carry out their critical missions.

On January 1, 2019, we launched the Bostick Select Fund, which honors the ministry of Rev. Sarah Lue Bostick, one of the first African-American women ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The Bostick Select Fund joins all of our investment funds--Common Balanced, Beasley Growth, Campbell Multi-Strategy, and Brown Income--in being faith-based and socially responsible. What makes the Bostick Select Fund unique is the exclusion of investment in fossil fuels, gun manufacturers, and companies targeted for divestment because of their involvement in perpetuating the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Strong partnerships help us advocate for socially-responsible practices in corporate boardrooms across the country. In partnership with Disciples Women, we supported legislation that will empower victims of human trafficking. We are engaged with CocoaAction, an initiative to support female workers and combat child labor in the cocoa industry. We partnered with the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) on the "No Fees" campaign, which is working to stop labor brokers from taking advantage of job seekers in poor countries. Working alongside our partners, investments in all of our funds are having a positive influence on corporate decision-makers.

Today, we face a new challenge: a global pandemic. COVID-19 has changed everything about our world. So much changed in a short period of time that we found ourselves wondering if it was appropriate to celebrate the extraordinary gifts and partnerships that came together to make 2019 so remarkable. But how could we not? Because the achievements of 2019 are not ours; they are yours. It's your work, your gifts, and your partnerships that we celebrate in this report. It is the ministries that you bless with the fruit of those gifts that are supporting the work of the church in this challenging time. The remarkable achievements of 2019 prepared us to overcome challenges that were unimaginable just weeks ago. This annual report is meant to celebrate the great things that we accomplished together in 2019, as we give thanks for that which has not changed. While our day-to-day activities have been upended by the coronavirus, the rock on which we stand is unshakable. Thanks be to God!

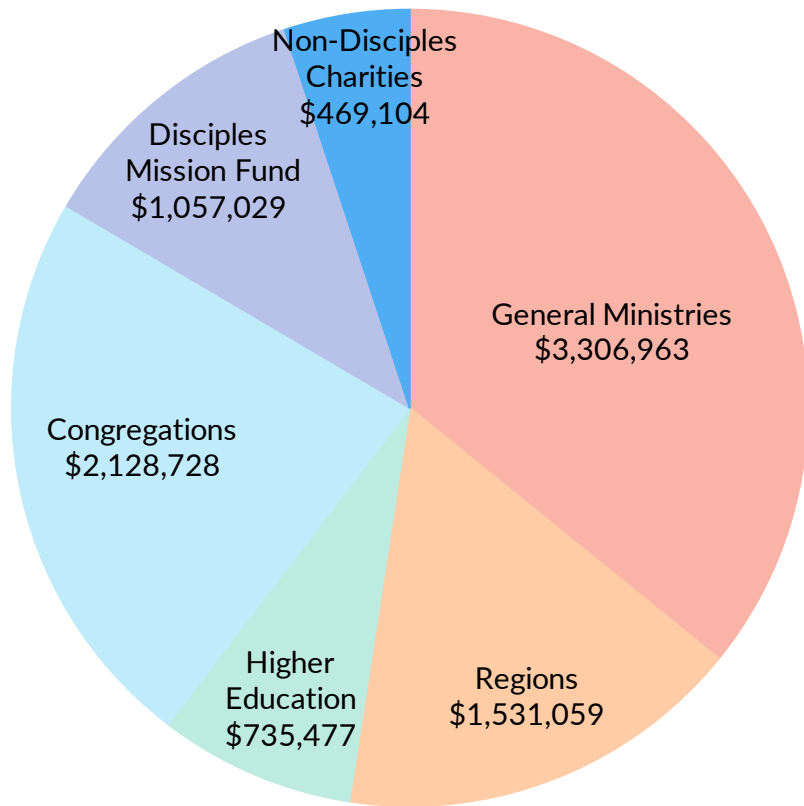
Our first endowment was established in 1975. The Berean Sunday School Endowment has been through wars, recessions, and exogenous events that roiled the economy and financial markets, yet it is still distributing money for mission and ministry today. Times of uncertainty are when a long-term perspective and seasoned approach matter most. Past crises have always strengthened our systems, our relationships, and our core values. In good times, the Foundation's mission statement, structure, and balance sheet are probably not at the top of your mind. In tougher periods, our culture and core values at the Foundation can make all the difference. This annual report is meant to reflect who we are, why our faith-based service culture is distinct, and how strong our financial footing is. These core principles provide us the wherewithal to serve you effectively, ride out tough times, and prepare for better ones.

Beyond the fears of these days, there is God, whose love casts out fear. May these days help us to discover how relevant the church can be. May they help us to value the blessing of being together in worship and inspire us to live for a holy purpose that is greater than ourselves. The world desperately needs the witness of the church today. We are honored to join with you in imagining and supporting new avenues of ministry and service, as together we work to change the world!

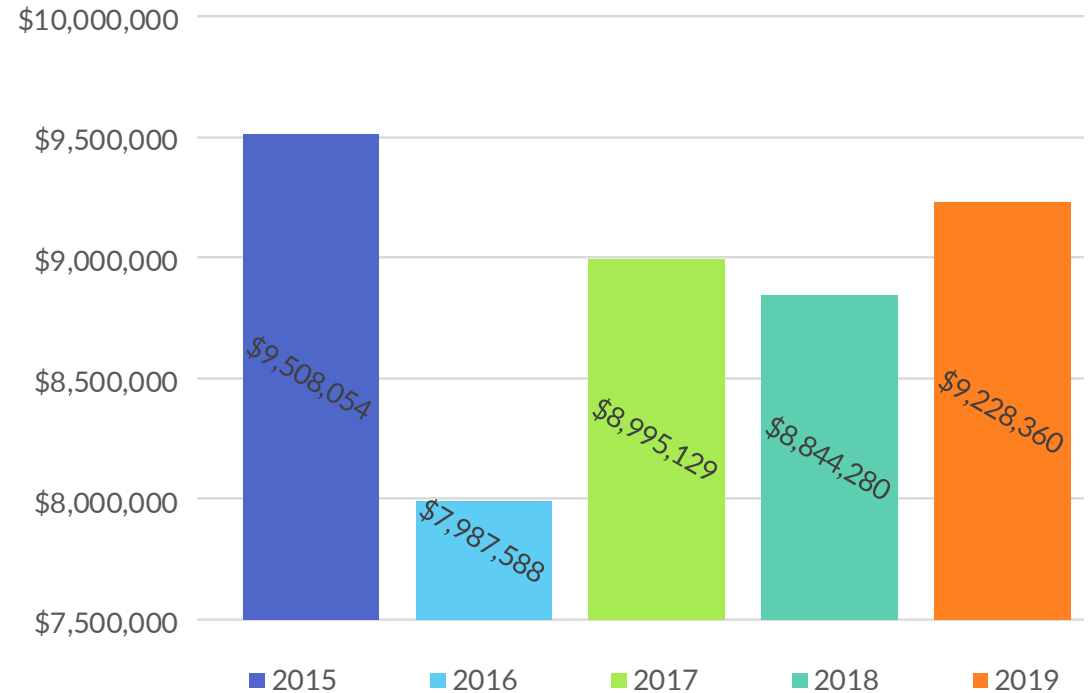
Gary W. Kidwell, President  
Christian Church Foundation

# Moving Money to Mission

2019 Total Distributions from Permanent Funds & Other Gifts

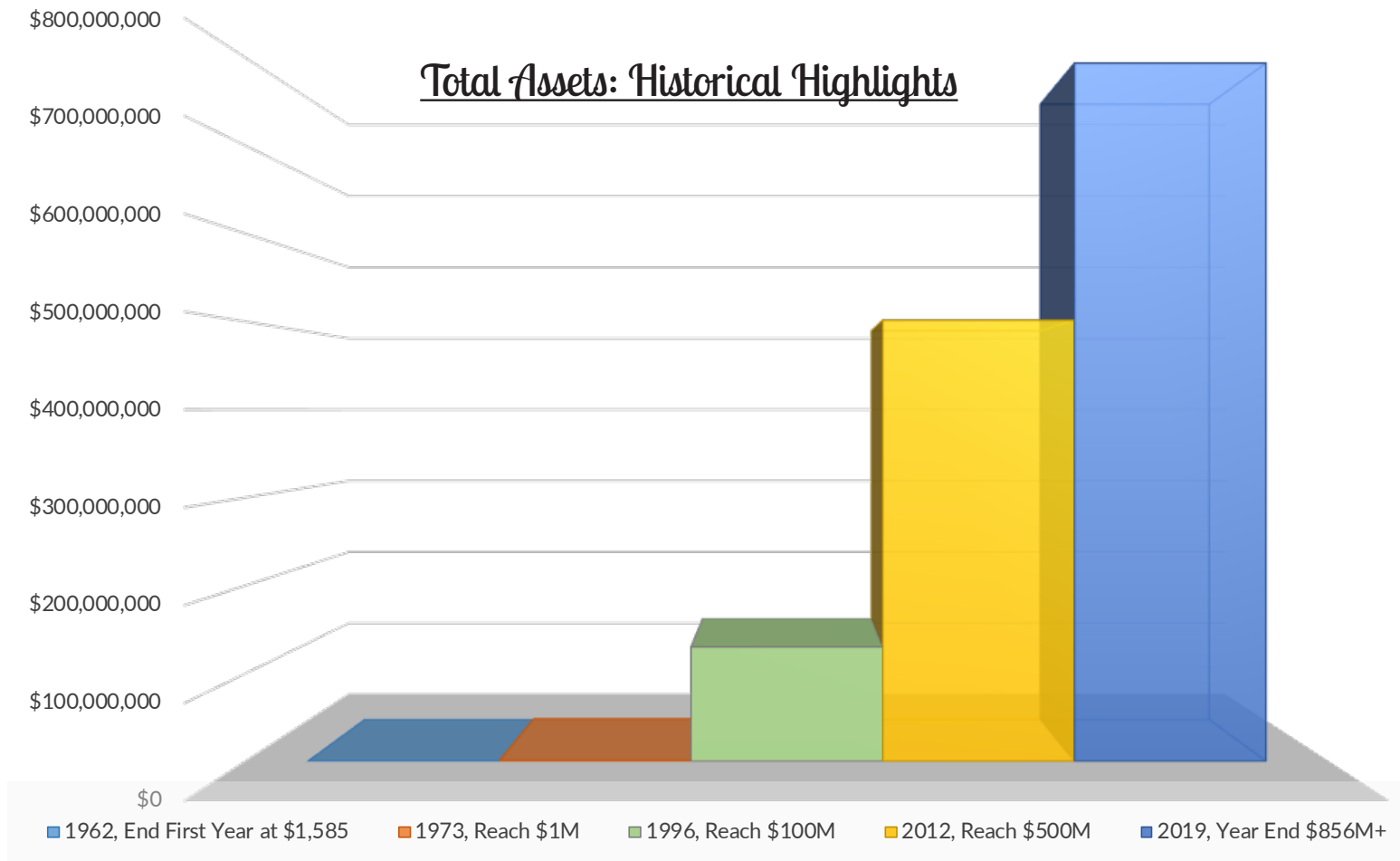


Five-Year Total Distributions from Permanent Funds & Other Gifts



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.

# Building a Firm Foundation



**2019 New Permanent Fund Gifts**  
**\$11,840,524**

**2019 Total New Gifts Under Management**  
**\$18,728,111**

**2019 Investment Account Deposits**  
**\$68,296,080**

**December 31, 2019 Total Assets**  
**\$856,139,629**

## Investment Results

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 requirements.

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.

At the end of 2019, ministries of the Christian Church, including the Foundation, had jointly invested \$793.8 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

Congregations

686

Higher Education Institutions

12

General Ministries and  
Recognized Organizations

36

Regions, Areas, and  
Affiliated Ministries

61

The Foundation works with individual donors, 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.



## Joint Investment Trust Returns as of December 31, 2019

Fund	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Since Inception
Common Balanced	19.02%	7.92%	5.44%	6.77%	7.5% (Dec. 1985)
Beasley Growth	21.69%	8.96%	6.45%	8.04%	8.8% (Dec. 1985)
Campbell Multi-Strategy	20.86%	7.73%	5.02%	6.20%	4.0% (Feb. 2008)
Bostick Select	21.19%	N/A	N/A	N/A	21.2% (Jan 2019)
Brown Income	13.75%	6.18%	3.80%	4.76%	5.7% (Dec. 1989)

**Common Balanced Fund** seeks total return from a moderate asset allocation with an emphasis on growth 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.

**Beasley Growth Fund** seeks total return from a moderately aggressive asset allocation with an emphasis on growth. 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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

## 2019 Board of Directors



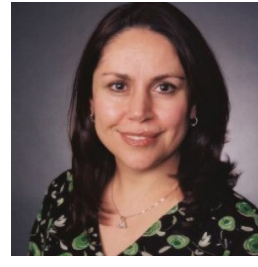
**Chair**  
Todd Reed, CPA  
Business Executive  
Bottom Line Services  
Walton, KY



**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, Audit  
Committee**  
Gita Gardner  
Architect  
Hendessi & Assoc.  
Atlanta, GA



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



**Chair, Nominating  
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



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



Angela McDonald-Fisher  
Attorney  
Eaton Corporation  
Beachwood, OH

## 2019 Board of Directors



Samuel Robles, Jr.  
Pastor  
Arise Christian Church  
Orlando, FL



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



David Yonker  
Senior Minister  
First Christian Church  
Burlington, IA

## &-Officio Members



Gary W. Kidwell  
President  
Christian Church  
Foundation  
Indianapolis, IN



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



Theodore Prentis Beasley  
1900-1984

## In Memoriam

We grieve the passing of William "Bill" Robertson in 2019. Bill served the Foundation for 11 years as a member of our development staff, then for another six years as a consultant. Bill was a pillar of the Foundation, working in four of our six Zones. A true renaissance man, Bill could talk theology, economics, aviation, and furniture repair. His humor, compassion, and gentle spirit naturally drew people in.

In 2009, the Foundation recognized Bill and his wife Benny for their outstanding philanthropy by awarding them the Harry T. Ice Award. All of us who knew and loved Bill miss him, but his work and witness will continue to reverberate throughout this ministry for years to come.



Robert Patterson, 2009 CCF Board  
Chair, with Benny and Bill.

**Christian Church Foundation, Inc.**  
**Consolidated Statements of Financial Position**  
**December 31, 2019 and 2018**

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash	\$ 577,047	\$ 932,373
Marketable securities and other investments	852,550,340	667,677,479
Property and equipment – net	128,482	187,826
Contributions receivable	2,703,571	1,719,750
Other assets	<u>180,189</u>	<u>243,749</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 856,139,629</u>	<u>\$ 670,761,177</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Non-endowment funds		
Partner investment accounts	\$ 574,313,923	\$ 443,573,852
Liability to income beneficiaries under life-income gifts	19,835,843	14,906,331
Liability to charitable beneficiaries under life-income gifts	9,047,134	5,865,868
Other liabilities	<u>711,980</u>	<u>774,209</u>
Total non-endowment funds	<u>603,908,880</u>	<u>465,120,260</u>
Endowment funds held for the benefit of others		
Managed for the benefit of the charitable entity donor	21,400,005	12,448,612
Restricted purposes for other charitable beneficiaries	<u>12,482,779</u>	<u>10,813,690</u>
Total endowment funds held for the benefit of others	<u>33,882,784</u>	<u>23,262,302</u>
Total liabilities	<u>637,791,664</u>	<u>488,382,562</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Without donor restrictions	38,779,973	32,759,726
With donor restrictions	<u>179,567,992</u>	<u>149,618,889</u>
Total net assets	<u>218,347,965</u>	<u>182,378,615</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 856,139,629</u>	<u>\$ 670,761,177</u>

The complete set of 2019 audited financial statements can be found by visiting our website, [www.christianchurchfoundation.org](http://www.christianchurchfoundation.org) or by calling the Foundation at (800) 668-8016.

## Mindy & Dick Hamm



Melinda “Mindy” and Richard “Dick” Hamm (former General Minister and President) love the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and have spent their lives serving and supporting the church. It is no surprise that they want to continue to support the ministries important to them at the time of their deaths and beyond.

After much prayerful thought and discussion with their Christian Church Foundation representative, they have created a plan which feels good to them and which they feel honors God’s call upon their lives. As Dick and Mindy continue to make annual charitable contributions, they also have chosen to make regular gifts to a fund they have established with the Christian Church Foundation. Mindy and

Dick shared, “We believe the church is an essential instrument of community, spirituality, and justice, so it is important to us that the church not merely survive but that it thrive. We believe our gifts through the Christian Church Foundation will contribute to such an ongoing, thriving witness and it gives us great satisfaction to be able to give back to the church we love.”

Dick and Mindy’s fund will not make any distributions until the end of their lives. According to their instructions, at that time, a portion of their fund will be immediately distributed to their chosen ministries across the life of the church. The remainder of their fund will then become permanent and will provide a stream of income to support ministry far into the future. Southeast Zone Vice President Randy Johnson says, “Faithful people like Dick and Mindy inspire us as they give so generously during their lifetimes and have put plans in place so that their gifts will keep on giving long after their lifetimes. It is inspiring to imagine the long-term impact their generosity will make!”

# Barbee Christian Camp, Indiana



Barbee Christian Camp Dining Hall

Barbee Christian Camp played an integral role in the spiritual growth and development of countless Indiana youth for over 66 years. When the decision was made to sell the camp in 2018, the Indiana Region was committed to upholding the legacy of the camp and ensuring that campers across the region would still have the opportunity to participate in church camp ministries for generations to come.

To continue the timeless legacy of Barbee Christian Camp, a portion of the sale proceeds was given to the Commission on Faith Formation of the Indiana Region, and the remainder invested with the Christian Church Foundation. The funds invested through the Christian Church Foundation provide for capital needs of two campground facilities rented by the Indiana Region: Bedford Camp and Conference Center and the interdenominational Geneva Conference Center. The funds administered through the Indiana Region Commission on Faith Formation provide grants of up to \$5,000 to Indiana congregations. These grants helped establish the Faith in Training (F.I.T.) Ministry of Carmel Christian Church, Carmel, Indiana and the Young Adult Outreach and Education ministry of First Christian Church, Veedersburg, Indiana and will continue to help establish imaginative faith formation ministries throughout the Region.

Although the decision to sell Barbee Christian Camp was a challenging one, the outcome has been a blessing for Indiana churches and church camp ministries far greater than what the Region originally imagined. Investments through the Indiana Region and the Christian Church Foundation will continue to provide financial resources for faith formation ministry and funds for operational expenses of Indiana's campground facilities for many years into the future.



2006 Family Camp at Barbee Christian Camp

## Chuck & Peggy Brittan

Chuck and Peggy Brittan have been involved in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) at every level.

From their home congregation, The Woodlands Christian Church, in Houston, Texas,



to working with the Southwest Region, to serving on the boards of Brite Divinity School, the Christian Church Foundation, and Pension Fund, they have given generously and faithfully of their time and their talents.

Over the last 20 years, Peggy and Chuck have established a Steward's Donor-Advised Fund, a Charitable Remainder Unitrust, and a Permanent Fund through the Christian Church Foundation. All of these decisions came after prayer and thoughtful conversation with their zone vice president. Chuck and Peggy wanted to be sure that they made the best decision available to them to help accomplish their charitable and philanthropic goals and leave a lasting, faithful legacy.

When South Central Zone Vice President Bobby Hawley began his ministry with the Christian Church Foundation, the Brittans were described to him as "deeply devoted servants who love the whole Church." Hawley says, "That was, indeed, true then and continues to be true to this day. Most of all, what I have learned over the years in working with Chuck and Peggy is that, no matter what they do in the life of the Church, they bring excellence, commitment, faithfulness, and generosity. The gifts that Peggy and Chuck have given, both financially and otherwise, will continue to impact the Church to create more good than I can imagine."

## Iglesia Cristiana Guaynabo Pueblo, Guaynabo Pueblo, Puerto Rico



Rev. Hector (Etin) Reyes

In April 2008, after their Christian Church Foundation representative preached and led a congregational meeting, Iglesia Cristiana Guaynabo Pueblo decided to invest with the Christian Church Foundation. Rev. Hector (Etin) Reyes explained that the congregation's money was in a local bank and they wanted to invest that money with the Christian Church Foundation as they imagined where and how God was calling them to serve their community.

After years of financial recession in Puerto Rico and devastation wrought by Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria, Iglesia Cristiana Guaynabo Pueblo knew they had found God's calling for them. The congregation withdrew almost \$200,000 from their investment account to remodel and expand their facilities so that they might better serve the community of Guaynabo Pueblo.

With the Christian Church Foundation's prudent management of their invested money, Iglesia Cristiana Guaynabo Pueblo was able to spend their time focusing on discerning God's call to them instead of spending their energy worrying about their invested money. As Iglesia Cristiana Guaynabo Pueblo imagines the future of their mission and ministry, they plan to continue partnering with the Christian Church Foundation and, in the future, they hope to develop an assisted living facility for low-income families in Guaynabo Pueblo.



Iglesia Cristiana Guaynabo Pueblo



## Paul & Ruth Few



Paul and Ruth Few love to travel all over the country, but the place you are perhaps most likely to find them is East Lincoln Christian Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. Ruth and Paul love the church and love giving back to others in any way they can. Between them, they have served on the boards for Disciples Home Missions, Phillips Theological Seminary, Kansas Christian Home, Kamp Kaleo On The River, Child Saving Institute, and the Nebraska Region, in addition to serving in varied volunteer positions for the region and their congregation.

For nine years, Ruth was the key leader and organizer for one of the largest fundraisers for Kamp Kaleo. Established in 1965, Kamp Kaleo has been the church camp home for the children and youth of the Nebraska Region for 54 years, serving thousands of children and helping them to dig deeper into their faith. Paul has been involved with the General Conference of Disciples Men for many decades and in 1992, helped establish the Men's Ministries Endowment Fund. Paul launched this endowment by encouraging contributions from past leaders of men's ministries. The Men's Ministries Endowment Fund grew more than Paul ever imagined it would and now includes 27 named funds, the values of which are over \$200,000.

Together Paul and Ruth have supported numerous Disciples-related ministries throughout the life of the church. And, utilizing the services of the Christian Church Foundation, they have created life-income gift arrangements which will leave legacy gifts after their deaths. In addition to their dedicated development of the Men's Ministries Endowment Fund, they have established the Paul E. and Ruth Warden Few Fund which will provide support to ministries across the life of the church for years to come. These many ministries will be forever changed because of Paul and Ruth's generous hearts.

## University Christian Church, Seattle, Washington

For over 120 years, University Christian Church, Seattle, Washington provided faithful ministry to the residents of their growing city in the Pacific Northwest. From 1901 onwards, University Christian Church's ministry was centered in a prominent location within the University of Washington district of the city. University Christian Church has a proud history of progressive ministry based on church members being able to imagine and discern for themselves what it means to be a follower of Christ. No doubt, this spirit of openness was key to the congregation's ability to work hand-in-hand with members of the university community in promoting social justice ministries throughout Seattle.

Due to changes in the university district during the past twenty years, the congregation saw their number of regular worshippers decline. Even while in numerical decline, the congregation continued its ecumenical and interfaith ministries and facilitated the construction of a low-cost housing apartment building on the church's property.

In 2017, University Christian Church voted to sell its historic building while encouraging the remaining members to join in a ministry with nearby Lake City Christian Church. The combined congregations adopted the name Journey Christian Church. Once the building sale was finalized in 2019, the decision was made to establish the University Christian Church Legacy Foundation and to use the proceeds from the sale to support important ministries in the university district, Journey Christian Church, the Northern Lights region, and beyond. It was important to members of University Christian Church that the new legacy foundation board should have members from both the congregation and the wider Disciples Community.



University Christian Church, Seattle

One of the first decisions made by the University Christian Church Legacy Foundation Board was to become a partner investor with the Christian Church Foundation. Their investment funds will produce a stream of income that will continue the important work of University Christian Church well into the future. The impact of 120 years of ministry from University Christian Church is greater than any of us can measure or imagine. The result of faithfulness and good decision-making is that the ministry and mission of University Christian Church lives on forever.

## Rev. Dr. Delores C. Carpenter

*The African American Heritage Hymnal*, which captures the accurately scored and traditional hymns and songs of the black church experience, originated with Rev. Dr. Delores C. Carpenter. Dr. Carpenter was a long-time professor at Howard Divinity School, served as the first female pastor at Michigan Park Christian Church in Washington D.C., and has been involved with Higher Education Leadership Ministries, Disciples Church Extension Fund, Global Ministries, and the General Board.



The idea for the hymnal spoke to Dr. Carpenter largely because of her belief that “People learn the faith through what they sing, and what they sing sustains them.” This belief, coupled with her passion for educating ministers and ministers of music, led Dr. Carpenter to channel early royalties from *The African American Heritage Hymnal* to fund the Delores Causion Carpenter Ministry Fund with the Christian Church Foundation. Income from the fund provides resources supporting the education of talented ministers of music by assisting in the cost of their education and providing for related expenses such as the purchase of instruments. “Working with the Foundation made the financial component much easier” said Dr. Carpenter. Her legacy includes daughters and grandchildren who support the fruits of her work and are helping her vision come to life.

The Carpenter family believes strongly in the importance of being actively engaged in philanthropy which does not require wealth, but vision, passion, and faith. Dr. Carpenter said her family lives by their faith and the belief that “If everybody does something, the world would be a better place.”

# 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.

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."



DeWitt & Othel Brown

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 1,400 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

The Christian Church Foundation was pleased to present two Harry T. Ice Awards at the 2019 General Assembly.

Edith Kelly-Green is an active member of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church in Memphis, Tennessee. She has also served the general church throughout her lifetime. She is generous, not just with her money, but her time and talents, too. Edith was instrumental in initiating the Permanent Fund Ministry at Mississippi Boulevard and she was a key leader in helping the church launch their "Mentoring Model" emphasis which will have a lasting impact on the future ministries of the church. Edith served on the Christian Church Foundation Board from 1999 to 2007.



Nathan and Claudia Higginbotham are active lay members of Cypress Creek Christian Church in Spring, Texas where they have served in a number of ministries. Nathan has served as Chair of the Elders and Chair of the Advanced Gift Fundraising for the New Educational Complex, and has been an active member of the Outreach,



Stewardship, and Long Range Planning Committees. Claudia was one of the first Stephen Ministry Leaders at the church, works tirelessly on the church landscaping, and was a key leader in cleaning up and restoring the church after damage from Hurricane Harvey in 2017. In addition to their dedicated service at Cypress Creek, Claudia and Nathan are involved in regional and general ministries.

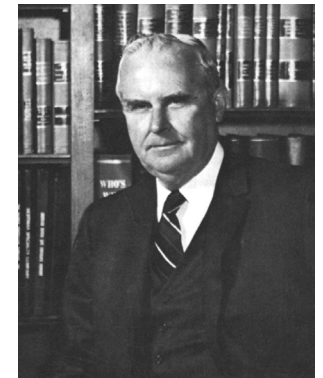
The Harry T. Ice Distinguished Service Award was created by the Foundation in 1984 to recognize excellence in philanthropy within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

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 Youngusband
- 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



Mr. Harry T. Ice

## 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.

This award is presented to congregational representatives at the Foundation's dinner at the biennial General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Nominations 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

On February 14, 1877, a group of eight people met informally in the home of Mr. and Mrs. A.T. Ankeny. This small group of Disciples grew into what is now First Christian Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota. By 2006, the church had a city block of buildings for a congregation numbering in the upper 100s, consuming the majority of their budget, and major change needed to take place for the future of the congregation. After much prayer and discussion, in May 2008, the congregation voted to sell the entire property to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, signing an agreement that would allow them five years to find a new home.

In 2010, FCC entered into discussions with Salem English Lutheran Church and Lyndale United Church of Christ. Both congregations had entered into a ministry partnership to rehab the historic portion of the Salem complex to create the SpringHouse Ministry Center. In January 2011, all three congregations voted to expand the partnership to include FCC. FCC officially moved into the SpringHouse Ministry Center on January 15, 2012, during the morning worship service. FCC, Lyndale United Church of Christ, and Salem English Lutheran Church share spaces for mission, ministry, and worship.

In addition to a strong commitment to local and global outreach, FCC has created a unique and powerful witness of stewardship of physical spaces. Sharing space with two other congregations enables them to give more financial resources away, to worship creatively in one of three different worship spaces, and to live into their commitment to energy efficiency. The faithful and creative imagination of FCC led them to a new way of being church in the

community and the world. FCC and the Foundation have had a strong relationship for decades, which continues as current church leaders promote planned giving as an ongoing enhancement of their endowment funds.



Members of FCC Minneapolis receiving the James P. Johnson Stewardship Award at General Assembly 2019

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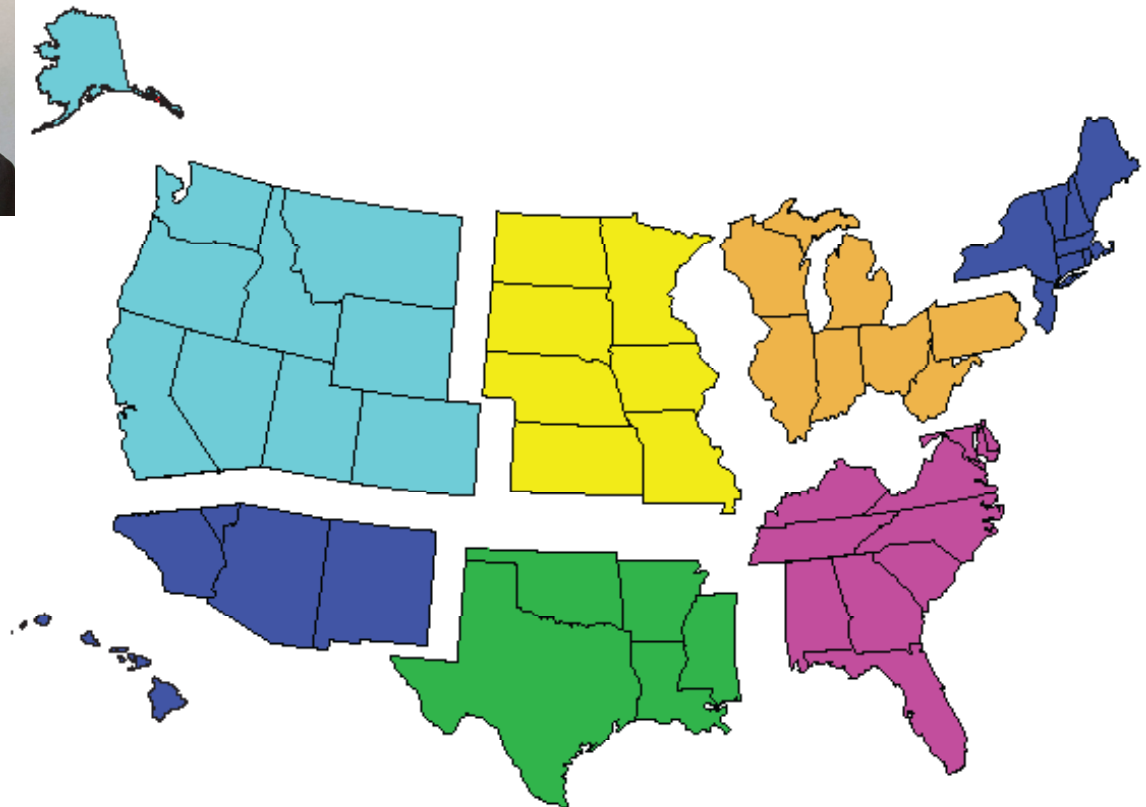
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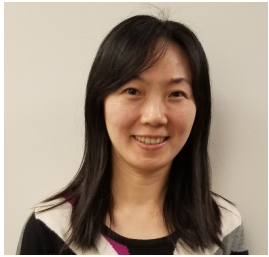
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Linda White  
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to the President





**CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH  
FOUNDATION**

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*Helping Disciples Make a Difference*