

Centennial Christian Church



# New Membership Orientation

WELCOME

TO

CENTENNIAL CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH

# Orientation Overview



**Part 1. Devotional Overview** – During this session you will learn more about the Disciples of Christ Denomination, Identity, What Disciples Believe, Disciple Symbols , Ceremonies, Structure and National Information.

**Part II. Meet Centennial Christian Church Disciples of Christ.** During this session you will learn about the Church's History and Operations.

**Parts 3, 4 & 5 are leader led sessions**

**Part III. Core Values & Stewardship**

**Part IV. Expectations of a Members & the Church** Policy Handbook is reviewed to present the benefits of membership and What Centennial expects of you as a member

**Part V. Spiritual Gifts** – Identify gifts and how your gifts can bless Centennial

# Orientation Overview



# Part I

# Who Are The Disciples of Christ



- ❑ The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a mainline Protestant Christian denomination in the United States and Canada with a heritage of compassion and care for all people
- ❑ The Church grew out of two movements seeking Christian unity that sprang up almost simultaneously in western Pennsylvania and Kentucky.
- ❑ The Church's mission is to be and share the Good News of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8)
- ❑ There are approximately 3,267 congregations in the United States today.
- ❑ There are approximately 423 black congregations in the United States today.

# DISCIPLES IDENTITY



We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us

# What We Believe



- ❑ The Trinity (God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit is ONE)
- ❑ Birth, Death & Resurrection of Jesus Christ
- ❑ Jesus Christ is the Son of the Living God and offers saving grace to all who believe in Jesus
- ❑ Congregations have total independence to determine their own doctrine, based on the denominational identity statement. However, it's important to acknowledge that we are in covenant with other congregations, The Regional Church and the General manifestations of our Church.
- ❑ Open Communion. The Lord's Supper, or Communion is celebrated and open to all who believe in Jesus Christ  
\*\*Baptism is not required to receive the Lord's Supper

# What We Believe



- ❑ ***Freedom of Belief*** - Disciples are called together around one essential of faith: belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Persons are free to follow their consciences guided by the **Bible, the Holy Spirit, study and prayer**, and are expected to extend that freedom to others
- ❑ ***Baptism by Immersion*** - symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It signifies new birth, a cleansing from sin, the individual's response to God's grace, and acceptance into the faith community. Though baptism by immersion is our form of choice, the Disciples of Christ in its quest for Christian unity accepts other forms of baptism as completely valid.
- ❑ ***Belief in the Oneness of the Church*** - All Christians are called to be one in Christ and to seek opportunities for common witness and service
- ❑ ***The Chalice*** - The chalice and St. Andrew's Cross, symbol of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), is a trademark registered with the United States Patent Office. It symbolizes the centrality of the Lord's Supper to Disciples life. The red color of the chalice signifies vitality, spirit and sacrifice

# Affirmation of Faith



We confess that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the Living God and proclaim Him Lord and Savior of the world. In His name and by His grace, we accept our mission of witness and service to mankind. We rejoice in God our Father, maker of heaven and earth, and in the covenant of love by which he has bound us to himself.

Through baptism into Christ, we enter newness of life and are made one with the whole people of God. In the fellowship, and communion of the Holy Spirit we are joined to one another in brotherhood/sisterhood and in obedience to Christ. At the table of the Lord, we celebrate with thanksgiving His saving acts and His presence.

Within the universal church we receive the gift of ministry and the light of Scripture. In the bonds of Christian faith, we yield ourselves to God, that we may serve Him whose kingdom has no end.

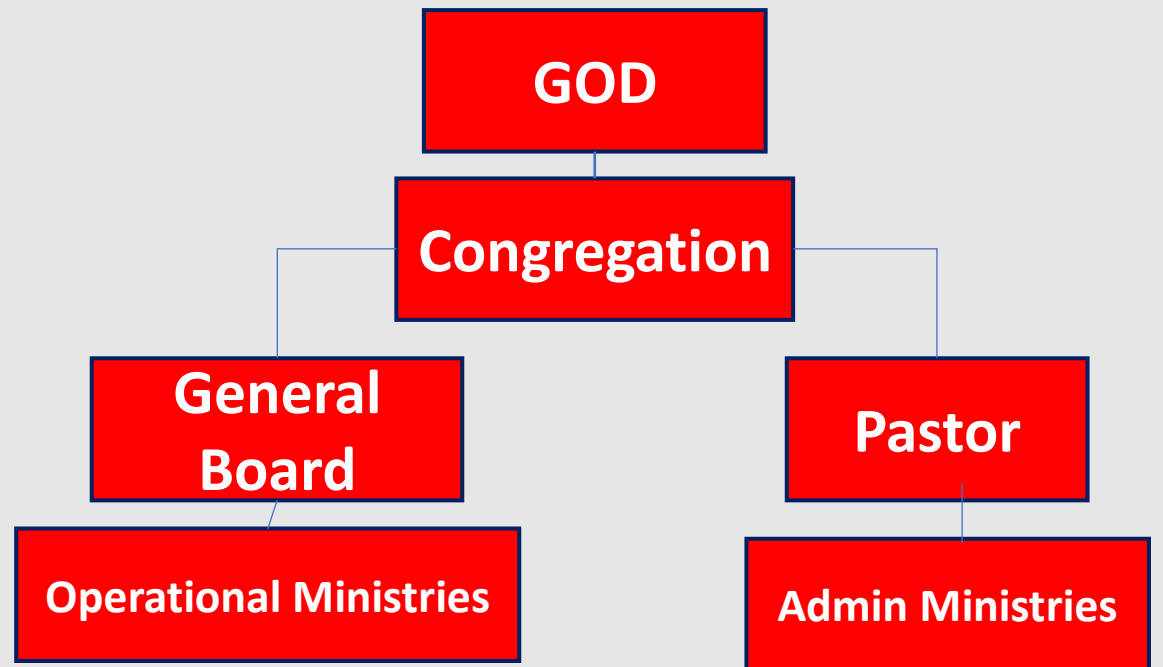
*Blessing, glory and honor be to Him forever!*



# Structure



- ❑ Disciples of Christ Churches are Lay Lead Congregations. This means that both ministers and Lay (non-ministers) can lead in worship, service and spiritual growth
- ❑ Congregations of the Disciples are self-governing in the tradition of congregational polity. They call their own Ministers, select their own leadership, own their own property, and manage their own affairs.
- ❑ The Disciples' local churches are congregationally governed



# National Information



- ❑ Most of the National Offices of the church are in Indianapolis, Indiana
- ❑ The General Minister & President is Rev. Teresa Hord Owens. Rev. Owens is the First African-American in this position
- ❑ **General Ministries**  
The General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are established or recognized by the General Assembly, upon recommendation of the General Board. These ministries address broad areas of work, central administrative functions and specialized study and services to meet responsibilities of the Church in its mission of witness and service to the world. General ministries strengthen congregational life for the church's mission.

# National Information General Ministries



## □ General Ministries

[Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries](#)

[Christian Board of Publication/Chalice Press](#)

[Christian Church Foundation](#)

Council on Christian Unity dba [Christian Unity and](#)

[Interfaith Ministry](#)

[Disciples Church Extension Fund](#) (DCEF) | [New Church](#)

[Disciples Home Missions](#)

[Disciples Women](#)

[Disciples of Christ Historical Society](#)

[Division of Overseas Ministries/Global Ministries](#)

[Higher Education and Leadership Ministries](#)

[National Benevolent Association](#)

[National Convocation](#)

[North American Pacific/Asian Disciples](#)

[Pension Fund](#)

# National Information Racial/Ethnic Ministries



## Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries

The Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries (Obra Hispana) helps facilitate, enable, promote, undergird and coordinate the work of Hispanic Ministries for the general church.

<http://www.obrahispana.org/>

## National Convocation

National Convocation is a ministry within the structure of the Disciples to support and strengthen African American congregations' partnership in the total mission of the church. The primary focus of the Convocation is vital congregational life.

<http://www.nationalconvocation.org/>

## North American Pacific/Asian Disciples

North American Pacific/Asian Disciples (NAPAD) ministries serve the growing American Asian and Pacific Islands' church. NAPAD affirms cultures and heritages of Asian and Pacific Islands peoples within the historic and living Christian faith. As part of the Disciples, NAPAD joins with other Disciples in the total mission of the church and recognizes and promotes the gifts and presence of North American Pacific/Asian Disciples in the life and work of the Church.

<http://www.napad.net/>

# National Information

## The National Convocation



- ❑ **Who Are We** – The National Convocation of the Christian Church is an expression of the church that promotes reconciliation, social justice concerns, and transformational ministry, by equipping and training clergy and laity leadership, and empowering congregations to do mission and ministry for the 21st century
- ❑ **Our Vision** - The vision of the National Convocation is to be a leaven in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) under One God as One Church with One Mission in the world; as a voice promoting pertinent issues related to the African American Church, carrying out the biblical mandate, and to transform lives
- ❑ **Our Mission** - To build meaningful and personal relationships with the people of our communities and other bodies essential to transforming congregations to do mission and ministry in a current and emerging context  
(Romans 12:9-21)  
(Isaiah 43:19)

OUR  
CHURCH



**Part II**  
**MEET**  
**CENTENNIAL**

# Centennial Christian Church's Beginning



## HISTORY

- In the year of 1904, our Lord saw a need to create a church. God planted the seed for this church in the heart and mind of Ella Brooks Thompson. A small prayer band of five women, led by her was the beginning of this future church. This nucleus met in private homes and in tents.
- Later services were held in the Y. M. C. A. located at 2633 Lucas Avenue. In 1905 the church purchased a building on Morgan Street (Delmar Blvd.) and was renamed "Morgan Street Christian Church". In 1910, the church moved to 4322 Kennerly and remained there for more than ten years. This property was sold to the St. Louis Board of Education in 1920. It became the site of Turner School. In 1924, Morgan Street Christian purchased property at 4400 Lucky (Aldine Ave)
- In 1945, the church moved to its current location at 4950 Fountain and **celebrated 119 years in March 2023**

# Centennial Christian Church's Beginning



## PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

Rev. Minor Pace

Rev. William Alphin

Rev. William K. Fox

Rev. John Doggett

Rev. Samuel W. Hylton, Jr.

Rev. Tyrone Eugene Fisher

Rev. Larry DeBernis Hill

Rev. Derrick L. Perkins



# Vision & Mission



## Vision

“A Lighthouse for All Who Seek the Lord!”

## Mission

We are the people of God that love one another  
and share that love by building ministries  
that reach, teach and ***Win Souls for CHRIST***

WHAT WE  
BELIEVE



# Part III

## CORE VALUES & STEWARDSHIP

# Core Values



## CORE VALUES

- **God** is the sovereign Creator of the world sharing “hesed” steadfast love with God’s creation. For us, God demands justice and shalom while promoting salvation and wholeness in the world.
- **Jesus** is the Son of God, the Messiah, the Savior of the world who died for the sins of the world, raised on the third day with all power, and currently resides with God ushering in God’s kingdom on earth. Jesus’ life and ministry as described in the sacred text provide models of faithful ministry worthy of replicating in contemporary ways. Jesus completely saves!
- **The Holy Spirit** is the presence, power, wind/breath “ruach” of God that comforts, convicts, commissions and empowers believers to live out their call in the world today.
- **The Church** is a movement; a gathered body of covenant believers worshipping, fellowshiping, teaching and learning and seeking justice; and the public manifestation of the Holy Spirit.
- **Holy Scripture** is inspired words of God shaped by context and cultures used to convey God’s activity in the lives of God’s creation over time. Scripture is to be studied, examined and lived out in foundational and communal ways.

# Stewardship



## WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP

- The intentional utilization and management of property and resources on behalf of an owner (God)
- To take care of something entrusted to you by God or other  
Stewardship is a matter of the heart and trust!
- Stewardship acknowledges that everything we are or have access to belongs to God. Therefore, all must be managed with faith and intelligence. (Genesis 1; Psalm 24:1-2; Psalm 115:16; Luke 16:1-13)

## What are privileged to manage?

- The Earth & Everything In it
- Relationships
- Our Children
- Job Responsibilities
- And more

# Stewardship



## The 5 “T’s” of Stewardship

- TIME: Managing your time for God’s purposes in and for the world (Ecclesiastes 3:1-9; Ephesians 5:15-16; Psalm 90:12; Ephesians 5:15-16; John 9:4; Colossians 4:5)
- TALENTS: Managing and using your gifts for God’s Purpose in the world. (Exodus 4:1-4; 1 Peter 4:10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; Matthew 25:14-27)
- TEMPLE: Managing God’s house or our body for God’s Purposes in the world (I Corinthians 3:16-17; I Corinthians 6:19-20)
- TESTIMONY: Sharing God’s activity in your life – managing every opportunity to be a witness of Christ

The stories of hope, liberation and blessings doesn’t belong to you! (Matthew 5:14-16; 1 Peter 3:15; 2 Timothy 1:7-8)

- TREASURES: Managing your financial resources faithfully and ethically to promote God’s purposes in the world. (Matthew 6:19-21; (Malachi 3:8-10; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

# Stewardship



## ABRAHAM & MELCHIZEDEK – GENESIS 14 (18-20)

- First Example of Tithing in the bible
- This example of tithing is in response to what God has done for Abraham.
- There's no expectation that things will get better for Abraham, but that God has already done great things.
- Abraham's response is one of faithfulness and gratitude.

## TITHES IN THE LITURGY – DEUTERONOMY 26

- First fruits were collected during worship
- It was in response to what God had done and was doing (Brought them out of Egypt and placed them in the land of plenty)

# Stewardship



## TITHES FOR THE HOUSE – MALACHI 3:8-12

- During times of famine, people withheld their tithes out of fear, which created additional suffering in the community. The system of giving was to ensure people could live. This was a self-imposed recession.
- Giving here had a promise associated.
- Danger!!!! Developing quid pro quo relationship with God
- Question of what we should tithe (Off our net or Gross)
- Whole tithe is from our whole earnings (Gross)

## GIVING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

### (2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-7; 1 CORINTHIANS 16:1-4)

- The focus here is on generous or bountiful giving.
1. What are ways have you sought to demonstrate your gratefulness?
  2. What changes and disciplines do you need to change in order to be or become a consistent tither and giver?
  3. How might your tithes help you be a better manager/steward of your resources? How might your consistent sacrifice help Centennial engage in a more faithful and fruitful ministry in the world today?

# Tithing Chart



## GIVING AID CHART

WEEKLY INCOME	BEYOND A TITHE		TITHE	UPPER RANGE GIVING			MIDDLE RANGE GIVING			LOWER RANGE GIVING		
	15%	12%		10%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%	2%
\$ 200	30.00	24.00	20.00	18.00	16.00	14.00	12.00	10.00	8.00	6.00	4.00	2.00
\$ 300	45.00	36.00	30.00	27.00	24.00	21.00	18.00	15.00	12.00	9.00	6.00	3.00
\$ 400	60.00	48.00	40.00	36.00	32.00	28.00	24.00	20.00	16.00	12.00	8.00	4.00
\$ 500	75.00	60.00	50.00	45.00	40.00	35.00	30.00	25.00	20.00	15.00	10.00	5.00
\$ 600	90.00	72.00	60.00	54.00	48.00	42.00	36.00	30.00	24.00	18.00	12.00	6.00
\$ 700	105.00	84.00	70.00	63.00	56.00	49.00	42.00	35.00	28.00	21.00	14.00	7.00
\$ 800	120.00	96.00	80.00	72.00	64.00	56.00	48.00	40.00	32.00	24.00	16.00	8.00
\$ 900	135.00	108.00	90.00	81.00	72.00	63.00	54.00	45.00	36.00	27.00	18.00	9.00
\$1,000	150.00	120.00	100.00	90.00	80.00	70.00	60.00	50.00	40.00	30.00	20.00	10.00
\$1,100	165.00	132.00	110.00	99.00	88.00	77.00	66.00	55.00	44.00	33.00	22.00	11.00
\$2,000	300.00	240.00	200.00	180.00	160.00	140.00	120.00	100.00	80.00	60.00	40.00	20.00
\$3,000	450.00	360.00	300.00	270.00	240.00	210.00	180.00	150.00	120.00	90.00	60.00	30.00



Church  
Policies



**Part IV**  
**BENEFITS**  
**(Handbook)**

# Membership Benefits



## BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP AT CENTENNIAL

Membership is a gift of salvation through Jesus Christ and we each became a part of the body of Christ. It must never be taken for granted but seen as an opportunity to serve others and to be a part of something so much greater than any one person. As we experience God's grace to us in Christ and better understand His glory, we become more like Him and are motivated to keep moving forward throughout our lives.

The following spiritual practices are commitments we make as members and reflect our desire to be transformed by God's grace into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

- **See Membership Commitment and Policy Handbook**

Spiritual  
Gifts



Part V  
**SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

# MINISTRY IN PRACTICE

## Spiritual Gifts

### Spiritual Gifts



- Please use the following link or hard copy to complete Spiritual Gifts Inventory Bring completed Inventory to In-Person Orientation Session
- Spiritual Gifts Inventory
- [https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/wp-login.php?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=CGO-Special-20200619-Fri%20Your%20Spiritual%20Gifts%20-%20Whats%20Next&utm\\_content=CGO-Special-20200619-Fri%20Your%20Spiritual%20Gifts%20-%20Whats%20Next+CID\\_b9f80d17bedb0e865eebfc71853b4749&utm\\_source=Campaign%20Monitor&utm\\_term=LINK](https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/wp-login.php?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CGO-Special-20200619-Fri%20Your%20Spiritual%20Gifts%20-%20Whats%20Next&utm_content=CGO-Special-20200619-Fri%20Your%20Spiritual%20Gifts%20-%20Whats%20Next+CID_b9f80d17bedb0e865eebfc71853b4749&utm_source=Campaign%20Monitor&utm_term=LINK)
- Inventory results will be reviewed and discussed to assist you in identifying your spiritual gifts

**NOTE:** If you need assistance with completing the inventory, please contact the office at (314) 367-1818 and a member of the Christian Education Team will call you. If you leave a message, please provide your name and contact number.

# Ministries



## MINISTRIES

- **Outreach Ministry:** The Ministry of the Church that shows Christian love in Action – Serving from the doorsteps of Centennial to the end of the world. This ministry is supported by the following ministries: Food, Social Justice, Health and Evangelism.
- **Praise & Worship Ministry** – Praise & Worship is the ministry responsible for collaborating with the Pastor and other ministries to organize and provide worship experiences that are educational, empowering and transforming for the congregation and visitors. The goal is to glorify God in a manner that evokes His presence. Ministry is supported by Music, Dance, Ushers', and Greeter's.
- **Christian Education Ministry** – Christian Education is the ministry responsible for providing biblical and theological education opportunities for all ages. Its goal is to simply enhance biblical knowledge and spiritual maturity in the life of the Church. Sunday School, Bible Study, Vacation Bible School, and specialized training.
- **Communication & Technology Ministry** – Communication & Technology ministry shares the good news by promoting the Church Ministries through various media (print, internet, website, Facebook, and recorded media) to members of Centennial, other churches and the general public.
- **Youth Ministry** – The Children & Youth Ministries are designed to deliver services to children of God by embracing each child, nurturing, loving and teaching them that they too are lighthouse youth for all who seek the LORD, and the growth of Centennial Christian Church.

New  
Member



**WELCOME TO  
CENTENNIAL  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**