

Meet the Foundation's New Executive Director



Eric S. Gray
Executive Director

Eric S. Gray, Edmond, has been named the new Executive Director of the Oklahoma Disciples Foundation. Eric succeeds Rev. Kyle Maxwell, who retired February 3, 2014, after faithfully serving the Foundation for 10 years. In order to assure a smooth transition, Rev. Maxwell has agreed to serve as part-time Minister of Faith & Giving for the Foundation.

Eric brings many years of experience to the Foundation through his extensive background in law and more than 10 years of dedicated service with the Board of Directors of Oklahoma Disciples Foundation, including one year as its president.

A longtime member of Western Oaks Christian Church in Oklahoma City, Eric is excited about the opportunity to lead the Foundation and continue its progress and service to the Disciples of Christ ministry accomplished under the leadership of Kyle Maxwell and the Foundation staff.

Eric grew up on a small family farm in rural western Pennsylvania and graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1978. That summer, he packed up and drove across country to attend law school at Oklahoma City University. Following law school, he was admitted to the Oklahoma Bar, and worked in the private practice of law.

Eric and his wife of 32 years, Elizabeth (also a practicing attorney) have been blessed with two children, Catherine (age 30) and Emily (age 25). Catherine has an MBA from Oklahoma State University and lives in Tulsa where she and her husband, Jarrod Moore, work for the City of Tulsa and are members of Yale Avenue Christian Church. Catherine and Jarrod have one child, Henry Elliott Moore, who is Eric's pride and joy. Daughter Emily is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma and is pursuing an MBA at Oklahoma City University while working full-time as an Account Executive for the Staplegun advertising agency. For the past 15 years Eric served as General Counsel for a small Edmond, Oklahoma-based company.

Eric is admitted to practice law in all Oklahoma state and federal courts, the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court. Through the years, he has had involvement with a variety of legal matters, from litigating oil and gas disputes to negotiating and documenting bond transactions. He has represented individuals as well as financial institutions, oil and gas companies, mortgage insurers, farmers, corrections companies, and other businesses.

**What is Oklahoma
Disciples Foundation?
(Part 3 of a Continuing Series)**

"Keep It Local"

Oklahoma Disciples Foundation (ODF) was born and bred in Oklahoma. Meaning, we are an independent, non-profit Oklahoma corporation devoted to seeing that Oklahoma funds are shared with Disciples ministry programs and beneficiaries within the state of Oklahoma. ODF is the product of the merger of the Oklahoma Christian Foundation (OCF) and the Northeast Oklahoma Christian Foundation (NEOCF).

These two Oklahoma foundations, dating back to 1960, held funds from gifts given to support specific activities and operations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oklahoma. Since the merger in 2001, ODF has continued the work and missions of both foundations and currently manages approximately \$12 million within more than 90 different named endowments as well as an operating endowment.

The aggregate gift monies from our Oklahoma donors are pooled and invested through the services of J.P. Morgan Chase Bank. Over the last ten years, despite a downturn in the economy and low interest rate environment, we happily have distributed over \$2.6 million to beneficiaries of Christian ministries while growing the total pool of assets. Current annual distributions are more than double our distributions 10 years ago.



Continued on back page. See "Keep It Local"



**I/We Wish to Make a Gift to:
Oklahoma Disciples Foundation, Inc.**

301 NW 36th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
Phone: 405.525.6530 or 888.525.6530
Fax: 405.528.3584 www.okdfd.org

Mail this form and check to the Foundation address, or gifts may be made online through our website. Thank You!

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***Gifts to Oklahoma Disciples Foundation are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Gifts may be made to a specific Endowment fund or to Disciple Club. A list of funds is available at www.okdfd.org.*

In order to reduce costs, we are considering going "green" in the near future. If you would like to be on our email mailing list for newsletters and/or seminars, please send us your preferred email address. If you have received this publication in error or wish to unsubscribe, please email jabowers@okdfd.org.

It's Not Too Late to Register for Free "Seminar for the Soul"

The Oklahoma Disciples Foundation (ODF) and the Northeast Area Christian Church in Oklahoma (NEACCO) are pleased to announce that it's not too late to register for their co-sponsored seminar in Tulsa, "Building a Cathedral for Your Soul." This unique seminar, presented in collaboration with Lake Institute on Faith & Giving at the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, will feature Rev. Dr. William G. Enright as the keynote speaker. In an interactive framework, Dr. Enright will explore the practical, spiritual and emotional aspects of faith and generosity.

"Americans are among the most generous people in the world. Our seminar will allow attendees to consider how their values relate to giving both money and talents," said Eric Gray, Executive Director of ODF. "We are gratified to engage a theologian of Dr. Enright's caliber."

Rev. Dr. Kyle Maxwell, ODF's Minister of Faith & Giving noted, "Generous people are reflective people who take inventory of their souls by considering how they are who they are. ODF is offering a venue for the exploration of how one might align spiritual values and giving priorities in a way that will make a difference."

There is no charge for the seminar, which is open to persons of all faiths. Lunch will be provided. In order to have an accurate count for meals, online registration is required by Friday, April 18, 2014.

Building A Cathedral for Your Soul **Oklahoma Disciples Foundation Seminar** **Saturday, April 26, 2014 - 9am-3pm** **Phillips Theological Seminary, Tulsa, OK**

More information: www.okdfd.org or 405.525.6530
Registration is required and there is no charge.

"Keep It Local" Continued from front page.

We are Oklahomans and members of Oklahoma area Disciples of Christ congregations. ODF is funded by Oklahomans. Through the years, as many of you may know, some of the smaller churches in rural and not so rural areas have closed due to lack of membership or other circumstances. However, gifts given to the Foundation by those churches continue to spread God's work within our state through annual distributions to specific programs of the Christian Church in Oklahoma.

We are local. We are easily accessible to our donors, beneficiaries and local churches. We strive for the advancement of God's work in everything we do. We work with a limited budget and staff of five dedicated individuals (two full-time, three part-time). We have a volunteer board of directors,

comprised of members from various Christian Churches throughout the state. They generously give their time, talents, and money to oversee our operations and set policy and procedure.

We are confident our legacy will continue as more individuals feel the calling to donate to the Christian Church in Oklahoma to preserve our local missions.

This is the third in a series of articles outlining Oklahoma Disciples Foundation, its purpose and operations. Subsequent installments will cover details about ODF's board of directors, how distributions are calculated, and other aspects of the Foundation. Our mission is to sustain an enduring financial basis for Christ's ministry through the prudent investment of funds to ensure a legacy of Christian principles and institutions.



OKLAHOMA DISCIPLES FOUNDATION
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Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of this publication. We sincerely apologize if the name of any party was omitted, misspelled or incorrectly identified. Please contact Julie Bowers (jabowers@okdfd.org) at the Foundation office to advise of any errors, changes, or leave your email information.

Thank you!



Pray With Us

You can help the Foundation immediately by praying with us. Please register on our website at www.okdfd.org.