

## ODF Embarks on a Program of “Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity”

In May 2010, Oklahoma Disciples Foundation will introduce a program for Disciples churches in Oklahoma with the objective of transforming congregations into cultures of generosity. The Foundation has contracted with the Lake Institute on Faith and Giving to present a two-day interactive workshop discussing congregations, stewardship and giving as a way of life rather than an annual campaign. William Enright and Richard Klopp, directors at the Lake Institute, will lead the workshop.

The May 2010 session will be by invitation to pastors of churches primarily in the northeast and central regions of the state. Each pastor will recruit two active laypersons from her/his congregation so they attend the workshop as a team. Long-range plans include expanding the program to other areas of the state by 2011.

The framework for the transformational process involves viewing generosity as a three-legged stool: pastoral leadership, institutional accountability and donor care. Enright and Klopp share with participants how to understand these three facets of generosity and make them a part of their congregational culture.

This interactive workshop includes:

- Analysis of the shifting landscape of religious giving with attention paid to the current economic situation.
- An analysis of trends in religious giving, from institution based to donor centered.



Additional features of the workshop include:

- Exploring ways to create an organizational structure of trust, accountability, and fiscal transparency.
- Learning how to build an institution that focuses on long term rather than short term goals.
- Discovering how to transform the practice of giving into rituals of joy and spiritual renewal.
- Exploring the theological heritage of faith and money.

- Learning how to talk about money to your congregation in a positive way.
- Discovering the importance of addressing fear and anxiety so that money-talk becomes redemptive and productive.
- Framing nurturing generosity and donor sensitivity as the practice of pastoral care.

Enright is executive director of the Lake Institute at the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University. He is former pastor at Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis and a leader in the field of congregations and giving. Klopp is associate director of the institute. An ordained minister, Klopp's field of study is the intersection of religion and philanthropy.

For more information on this initiative, contact Kyle Maxwell at 405.525.6530 or [kvm Maxwell@okdisciplesfoundation.org](mailto:kvm Maxwell@okdisciplesfoundation.org). Additional information about the Lake Institute is available at: <http://www.philanthropy.iupui.edu/LakeFamilyInstitute>

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If you have received this newsletter in error, or no longer wish to subscribe, please email [vrose@okdisciplesfoundation.org](mailto:vrose@okdisciplesfoundation.org) or call Vicki Rose 888.525.6530

## slow money

Why would a Foundation — whose professional money managers are working to grow the funds at a reasonably rapid rate — include a piece on *slow money* in its quarterly newsletter? Because:

The mission of the foundation 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.

Implicit in this statement is the call to engage in an ongoing study of financial concepts and theories so as to continually monitor what are prudent investments.



The Slow Money concept is the brainchild of founder Woody Tasch, who has been profiled as *a pioneer in merging investing and philanthropy*. (<http://www.slowmoneyalliance.org/>)

"Slow money" is a growing new theory that involves re-thinking how we view investing and what we consider a good return. A core principle is this: **"There is such a thing as money that is too fast, companies that are too big, finance that is too complex.** Therefore, we must slow our money down -- not all of it, of course, but enough to matter."

The Slow Money mission is:

- To steer significant new sources of capital to small food enterprises, appropriate-scale, organic farming and local food systems; and,
- To catalyze the emergence of the nurture capital industry — entrepreneurial finance supporting soil fertility, carrying capacity, sense of place, cultural and ecological

diversity, and nonviolence. (Tasch, 2008)

Among the Slow Money principles these questions are posed:

- *What would the world be like if we invested 50% of our assets within 50 miles of where we lived?*
- *What if there were a new generation of companies that gave away 50% of their profits?*  
 (While it may sound outlandish, Tasch and other Slow Money proponents have cited examples of companies that are doing, or on track to accomplish, exactly this.)
- *What if there were 50% more organic material in our soil 50 years from now?*

Tasch, Woody

2008 *Inquiries into the Nature of Slow Money*. (Chelsea Green Publishing)

**"...he who gathers money little by little makes it grow."**

**(Proverbs 13:11)**

### New Endowment Funds at Oklahoma Disciples Foundation

An endowment is a fund that is restricted. That is, the principal is preserved and only the earnings generated by the fund are spent. ODF's board of directors has engaged professional money managers who are charged with growing the funds by investing in stocks, bonds and other financial instruments. Each year, the Foundation makes distributions from the earnings to designated beneficiaries.

Stability is a critical defining feature of endowment funds; ODF plans to be around for a long time! This offers our donors the option of providing a gift that keeps on giving. As affirmed on our masthead on the reverse side of this page: "Touch a Life Today . . . and Tomorrow."

Two newly-established endowment funds will benefit future generations of Disciples, as demonstrated by their stated purposes:

**Doran & Jean Myers Endowment:** created to enhance the ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oklahoma.

**Oklahoma Disciples Foundation Education Fund:** given to create congregational cultures of generosity.

For more complete details about these endowment funds please contact us: 888-525-6530,

[kvmaxwell@okdisciplesfoundation.org](mailto:kvmaxwell@okdisciplesfoundation.org), [vrose@okdisciplesfoundation.org](mailto:vrose@okdisciplesfoundation.org).