



Summer 2008
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A SUSTAINABLE LEGACY

Sustainability is a concept which is receiving increased attention – locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. Sustainability has been built into every aspect of London’s plans for the 2012 Olympics – from recycling construction materials to inspiring a healthy lifestyle. Closer to home, the Oklahoma Sustainability Network held its 7th annual conference in Norman earlier this spring. And during events surrounding Earth Day in April, sustainability was at the center of programs focusing on environmental issues. In Edmond, Southern Hills Christian Church held an Environmental Expo to provide a forum for advice about low carbon living, recycling, water conservation, local food production, green gardening, and related environmental issues. Other communities of faith are participating in a variety of efforts to promote ecological awareness and respond to the threats to America’s natural heritage by advocating responsible stewardship of God’s creation.



The concept of sustainability is often traced to Theodore Roosevelt’s 1910 quote: “I recognize the right and duty of this generation to develop and use the natural resources of our land, but I do not recognize the right to waste them, or to rob, by wasteful use, the generations that

come after us.” The most frequently-quoted definition of sustainability draws on the 1987 UN *Report of the World [Brundtland] Commission on Environment & Development*: “meet[ing] the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” Put another way, according to an ancient Indian proverb: rather than inheriting the earth from our parents and grandparents, we are borrowing it from our children and grandchildren.

Oklahoma Disciples Foundation defines its mission in very similar terms: **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.**

Endowment Fund	2008	2007	2006
Oklahoma Disciple Women Leadership Development	\$4,234.52	\$3,920.88	\$2,209.37
Neal Family First Christian Church Edmond	\$4,688.20	\$4,463.82	\$639.28
Pastoral Care	\$2,091.98	\$1,995.47	\$1,128.59

Distributions which have been made over the past three years to three Oklahoma Disciples Foundation named endowment funds are outlined in the above chart. Please note that these are selected examples, and we must include the standard disclaimer – as our investment managers caution – “past performance is no guarantee of future results.” However, with sound investment decisions, ongoing support from donors and the grace of God, this legacy can continue into perpetuity.

Kyle Maxwell
Executive Director

My Enduring Gift

I/we wish to make a perpetual gift to the Oklahoma Disciples Foundation, Inc.

Please select the endowment fund(s):

- Camps & Programs
- Senior Adult Care
- Pastoral Care
- ODWF ODMF
- Disc. Scholarships & Institutions
- Regional Ministries
- Other _____
(Full list at www.okdisciplesfoundation.org)

Disciples Club
Annual Gift \$ _____

Tax-Deductible Gift Enclosed:

Check \$ _____ Cash \$ _____ Pledge \$ _____ # _____ installments @ \$ _____
(Gifts are recorded in the calendar year.)
 Credit Card \$ _____ MasterCard VISA Discover
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 Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____
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Questions? Call 888-525-6530 (toll-free)

Return to:
Oklahoma Disciples Foundation
301 NW 36th
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Donor Information:

Name(s) _____
 Please list my/our donor name(s) as: _____
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 I/we attend _____ church in _____

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

In This Issue

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2008 Regional Assembly provides varied opportunities!

The 2008 Regional Assembly, held in April at Harvard Avenue Christian Church in Tulsa, provided opportunities for the renewal of relationships, spiritual reflection, and some outdoor activities. More of these kinds of challenges will be experienced this summer by youth at Disciples of Christ camps and conferences. In 2008, distributions to Oklahoma Disciples Foundation endowment funds for camps, camp scholarships and other camp and



conference services totaled almost \$51,000. Financial support of camps and conferences contributes to the legacy of Christian principles and institutions, a vital aspect of the foundation's mission. For more information on our mission, please refer to the lead article in this newsletter.



 In all issues of the 2008 newsletter, we are sharing letters of appreciation from Phillips Theological Seminary scholarship recipients, expressing their thoughts on what gifts to that endowment fund have meant for their lives and their ministries.

"I serve as pastor of a new church in Bentonville, Arkansas In this short time [since May 2007], I have used many of the tools given to me in my studies to bless this four and one half year old church start. My time [here] has truly been a blessing. Prior to that I was the senior pastor of the First Christian Church of Berryville, Arkansas where I served this church in a revitalization program for three years. I have served two other churches as a full time pastor in the Disciples of Christ. This time has been one concentrating on new church and church revitalization. It covers a period of thirteen years as a licensed minister serving three regions, The Upper Midwest Region, The South Carolina Region, and the Great River Region. I have truly been blessed.

Upon completing my studies in the spring of 2009, I hope to continue to work with the New Church Program of the

Christian Church Disciples of Christ or in the Revitalization Program under Church Extension. I have found a ministry in this that allows me to use so many gifts to build the body of Christ and to help those around me.

To give you a better idea of what this scholarship aid has meant to myself and my wife Mary would be almost impossible. It has kept me in school and on a track to finish up for ordination. It has helped provide a base where we may use the money we have to bless the churches and the communities that they serve. That is to say, to do God's work in time, talents, and treasures. The scholarship fund has blessed us so that my wife and I may have a family life in which we share great joy and look forward to new ministry challenges."

"I have found a ministry...that allows me to use so many gifts to build the body of Christ and to help those around me."

Paul I. Elliott

Student at Phillips Theological Seminary

for three years, beginning in Fall 2004

Pastor, Elm Tree Christian Church,
 Bentonville Arkansas