

## ODF Workshop Participants Learn About “Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity”

**Camp Christian**, near Chouteau, Oklahoma, served as the setting for a dynamic workshop on “Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity,” May 25-27, 2010. Oklahoma Disciples Foundation contracted with the Lake Institute on Faith and Giving to present the interactive workshop discussing congregations, stewardship and giving as a way of life.

ODF leadership envisions this as the first installment of a year-long program for Disciples churches in Oklahoma with the objective of helping *transform the culture of giving* within their congregations. William Enright and Richard Klopp, directors at the Lake Institute, were the workshop leaders. (For their biographies and more information on the Lake Institute, see page 2.)

**“Events like this remind us what we should be about.”**

**Bill English, Senior Pastor  
 Disciples Christian Church,  
 Bartlesville**

Workshop participants included 11 pastors of Disciples churches

primarily in the northeast and central regions of the state. Each pastor recruited one or two active laypersons from her/his congregation to attend as well, so they could function as a team. Long-range plans include expanding the program to other areas of Oklahoma later this year.



Scriptural references served as a backdrop throughout the sessions, as did the concept of *leadership with theological integrity*. “Jesus had more to say about money and possessions than anything else.”<sup>1</sup>

Research on giving was frequently cited, with an emphasis on the implications for congregations. For example, while people of faith are generous, Christian giving is

waning.<sup>2</sup> In addition, a paradigm shift in religious giving was noted — from institution-centered to donor-centered and from giving as a contribution to giving as creating change.<sup>3</sup>

The first day set the tone, with a focus on the concept of generosity – as a moral virtue and a fiscal practice. Each participant was asked to reflect on his/her philanthropic biography and on generosity in the context of leadership. The role of the pastor as chief steward and CEO, together with “donor sensitivity and nurturing generosity as the practice of pastoral care” served as subsequent topics.

(continued on page 2)

**“We can be generous in our giving and generous in our forgiving, serving, caring, praying, sharing of encouragement, loving and living life to the fullest.”**

**Kipp Wolfe, Senior Pastor  
 First Christian Church,  
 Tulsa**

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## ODF Workshop Participants Learn About “Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity” (continued from page 1)

Finally, transparency and organizational accountability were central subjects for lecture and discussion. (Transparency, in this context, was defined as the openness with which a congregation conducts its affairs.)

Throughout the workshop, group exercises facilitated interaction and gave the clergy-lay teams time to explore strategies for congregational renewal through generosity.

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. Additional information about the Lake Institute is available at: [www.philanthropy.iupui.edu/LakeFamilyInstitute](http://www.philanthropy.iupui.edu/LakeFamilyInstitute)

For more information on this initiative, contact Kyle Maxwell at 405.525.6530 or [kvmaxwell@okdisciplesfoundation.org](mailto:kvmaxwell@okdisciplesfoundation.org).




The restorative environment of Camp Christian — away from daily responsibilities — provided an ideal setting for the meditative work of this event. Many thanks to Jeff Kendall, the camp director, for his assistance in hosting and for his stewardship of the camp facilities.

More information on three endowment funds that provide for camp scholarships or benefit Camp Christian and its operations is available at: [www.okdisciplesfoundation.org](http://www.okdisciplesfoundation.org). Click on [Named Endowment List](#) and scroll to ‘Campsites & Programming.’

*“...the time given us to share testimonies, thoughts and questions about Christian generosity with other pastors and laity was a tremendous blessing.”*

**Charles Ragland**  
 Senior Pastor  
 First Christian Church,  
 Claremore

Footnotes/Resource:  
 2010 Lake Institute on Faith & Giving, The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University, IUPUI, Indianapolis. “Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity” Workbook.  
 1: page 21  
 2: page 3  
 3: page 53

## Update on New Endowment Funds

New endowment funds established since last summer, together with their formal stated purposes:

### **CENTRAL CAMP SUSAN SHIELDS (January 2010)**

Established by the board of Central Oklahoma Christian Camp in memory and appreciation of Susan Shields’ many contributions and gifts of time, talent and treasure as an employee and volunteer at Central Oklahoma Christian Camp and Conference Center, Guthrie, Oklahoma

### **DORAN & JEAN MYERS ENDOWMENT (October 2009)**

A memorial fund to undergird the programs and staff of the Christian Church in Oklahoma.

### **FUND F/EDUCATION OF CLERGY & LAITY (October 2009)**

To create congregational structures of fiscal transparency and accountability through the education of clergy and laity.  
 To influence individuals to examine their spiritual values of giving.

### **MARY E HATTENDORF MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT (April 2010)**

To provide support for the music ministry of First Christian Church, Midwest City, Oklahoma.