

## Beneficiary Spotlight: World Convention A Global Legacy

by Vicki Rose, ODF Director of Operations



### 26 Years Ago

In 1988, with a gift of \$5,000, Mary and Sam Howard established an endowment fund in the Oklahoma Christian Foundation\* "with all income benefits to be distributed to the World Convention." According to Sam's correspondence, the gift was to commemorate each of the five times "team Mary and Sam" had attended World Conventions (usually quadrennial), ranging from Adelaide in 1970 to Auckland in 1988.

For the next decade, the Howards continued to make gifts to the World Convention endowment, growing it to \$10,000 by year 2000.

### What is World Convention?

For 80 years, Christians, Disciples and Churches of Christ have connected globally through World Convention, headquartered in Nashville, TN.

At their website, [www.worldconvention.org](http://www.worldconvention.org), one learns that unity is a predominant theme in their work. As the only structure providing an identity for the movement globally, the organization is not an event, but an everyday ministry that connects these denominations worldwide. World Convention is also unique in serving as the only organization whose purpose is to build fellowship, understanding and common purpose within the Christian-Churches of Christ-Disciples of Christ global family.

### The Legacy

Since the endowment fund's inception, income on the fund has provided a small but steady stream of income to the World Convention; total distributions to date have exceeded \$10,120. And the fair market value of the World Convention endowment fund currently stands at \$12,285, with the prospect of supporting the organization far into the future.

Gary Holloway, Executive Director, outlines stories of recent connections through the World Convention:

- ♦ A Kenyan minister, greatly discouraged by his experiences with western missionaries, found fellow believers in his country through World Convention who encouraged him to continue his service through churches and a Christian school.
- ♦ A congregation in Australia joined another in Brazil in celebrating the Great Communion together.
- ♦ Churches in Brazil are partnering with Korean churches to plant new Korean speaking congregations in Brazil.

Do you suppose Mary and Sam imagined that their gifts would impact the life of a Kenyan minister? Or the lives of two congregations separated by the South Pacific Ocean?

As you read this article, please consider whether you might be the one to accept the challenge of growing the endowment for this worthy ministry beyond our state and national borders. Or perhaps you have a passion of your own ... some spiritual experience or life event you would like to commemorate by establishing a permanent fund in Oklahoma Disciples Foundation. If so, we would love to hear from you.

*\*In 2001, the Oklahoma Christian Foundation and Northeast Area Foundation merged and became the Oklahoma Disciples Foundation.*

## What is Oklahoma Disciples Foundation? (Part 4 of a Continuing Series)

### Our Board of Directors

ODF's Board of Directors is a voluntary Board which manages the operation of the Foundation. It has power to exercise duties necessary for the administration of the affairs of the Foundation including its operation and maintenance, as well as selection of the Executive Director. The Board members are the primary link to the Disciples community and are dutiful to the Foundation's mission.

The Foundation currently has 10 active Board members. Each director must be a member of a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregation in Oklahoma. They are also asked to make personal financial contributions in support of the Foundation and its Christian mission.

Directors are elected annually by the Board for a term of three years. Each director is eligible to serve three consecutive terms; however, they may be reelected following the expiration of at least one year from the end of his/her last term.

The Board is represented by five areas in the state with at least one representative from each area and no more than two members



from the same congregation. Additional directors may be elected to serve at large.

Directors are asked to attend scheduled Board meetings quarterly. Meeting locations vary around the state at host churches or the Foundation offices. Officers of the Board include the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer who are elected annually by the Board for a term of one year.

## Atlanta Hosts Disciples Women Quadrennial: "I See You" Theme Opens Eyes

By Kim Turner-Smith,

ODF Associate Development Director

I had the privilege of attending my first Quadrennial conference of Disciples Women this year in Atlanta, Georgia. Thousands of women gathered in downtown Atlanta to celebrate God's love and learn more ways to show this love and to serve Him. Attendees from around the world shared triumphs and trials of spreading God's word, serving the needy and championing the oppressed. This year's theme, "I See You," was a reminder that God is always present in us, in others and in our surroundings...sometimes we just need to take a deeper look.

One of the many blessings I experienced while at Quadrennial was getting to know more Disciples Women from Oklahoma. My travel companion and seasoned Quadrennial attendee from Wagoner, Becky Crocker,



*The Oklahoma Disciple Women's delegation who attended the Quadrennial conference in Atlanta, Georgia, in June. Kim Turner-Smith is pictured top row, second from the left.*

introduced me to our delegation of more than twenty women who welcomed me and shared in my Quadrennial experience.

One major highlight from the week was participating in the "March Against Human Trafficking" to raise awareness of human

trafficking in the United States and around the world. More than 300 women from the conference walked from the conference hotel to Centennial Olympic Park, the 21-acre park built for the historic 1996 Summer Olympic Games. It is also the location of the Center for Civil and Human Rights Museum. The mile long march of women chanting and holding signs, was well documented and reported by several local media representatives present along the route. It was our way of opening the eyes to the suffering of many with the hopes of healing.

Again, I was reminded God's love is ever-present and there are many ways to share and to serve. God sees us...do we see Him?

*Kim lives in Tulsa, OK. She is a member of First Christian Church, Wagoner, where her husband, Will, serves as minister. Kim occasionally delivers the Sunday message at northeast area Disciples churches.*

In order to reduce costs, we are considering going "green" in the 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@okdfdn.org](mailto:jabowers@okdfdn.org).

## Sam and Mary Howard — Good and Faithful Servants

As this newsletter was being prepared, we were informed of the death of Mary A. Howard. Mary, a long-time supporter of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oklahoma, passed away on August 7, 2014, at the age of 101. Mary and her late husband, Sam B. Howard, were the founders of many church endowments as well as the Oklahoma Disciples Foundation (ODF) itself. ODF was the result of the merger of the Northeast Oklahoma Christian Foundation and Oklahoma Christian Foundation.

The Howards' vision toward the future and investment in the Disciples of Christ ministries throughout the state have provided a lasting legacy of funds to various ministries which they were passionate about, including sustaining the Foundation and its work. Many of your churches and the ministries you support are the beneficiaries of Foundation funds, thanks to the insight of the Howards. The Howards knew that endowments would provide a way to help ministries through hard times as well as grow ministries beyond the levels of current funding.

The Howards believed in a foundation...a solid base on which God's kingdom could be supported. To that end they created numerous endowments within the Oklahoma Disciples Foundation and its two predecessor foundations.

In future newsletters we will be sharing stories and news about some of these endowment funds and the lives that have been touched by the wisdom and generosity of Sam and Mary Howard.

In fact, on the front of this newsletter is a story entitled "A Global Legacy," which provides insight to just one of the funds Sam and Mary created. Stay tuned for more. And, if you have stories you wish to share about how the Foundation has touched your life, please feel free to send your stories to us.

*"Together We Touch Lives"*

## On the Seminar Scene

Mark Your Calendars for Saturday, February 28, 2015!

**What:** "Women in Philanthropy" – A presentation of philanthropic trends; the role of women and wealth; women as donors and why they give; and creating a culture of giving.

**When/Where:** On Saturday, February 28, 2015, in Oklahoma City.

**Host Presenter:** Lesly Bosch Annen, Nazareth, TX, is an independent philanthropic advisor with 20 years of experience in advancement, strategic planning and communications in the nonprofit arena. In addition to many volunteer positions, Ms. Annen has served on several councils and boards for philanthropy in Dallas and North Texas. Her credentials include: Certified Fund Raiser Executive (CFRE) and Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy (CAP).

### "Building a Cathedral for Your Soul" Recap

Rev. Dr. William G. Enright was the keynote speaker at the "Building a Cathedral for Your Soul" seminar held in Tulsa in April. The presentation's focus was to inspire thoughtful giving springing from joy and gratitude rather than duty.

In an enlightening presentation, Dr. Enright shared statistics on and reasons why people give, how people give, and to whom do they give. He also asked thought-provoking questions such as, "Is generosity learned?" or "Do you see yourself to be a generous person?" and "What's your story and how are you making a difference?"

Dr. Enright allowed opportunities for breakout group and individual time in order for Disciples participants to discover and develop their personal giving/volunteering story. In one particular breakout session, participants gathered in groups of three or four to discuss how they learned giving growing up and from whom. It was a task not many had really thought about. He then asked the participants to find a personal space and make a list of the top places they gave in 2013 and 2014, as well as why they gave to those places. He noted that donors are inspired by passions as well as spiritual and religious values. He referenced a study which reported 70 percent of giving goes to religious organizations.

Dr. Enright asked a specific question for participants to ponder, "What is money's role in my life?" He further asked, "Is it a scorecard or used as a resource for things I care about?"

He noted that most donors have no giving strategy. Moreover, most of charitable giving is transactional, obligatory and reciprocal. One gives to meet a budget, to show support or to address a need. He asked, "When does giving move from being transactional to being transformative?" In other words, when does it become more generous, purposeful and strategic...reflecting one's passions?

The ultimate purpose of the seminar was to assist the participants in developing a personal story-line to plan for and align giving with hopes and dreams for the future. At the end of the afternoon, participants were given about an hour to write a letter to someone special in their family. They were to tell their story and values regarding giving. They were to candidly share their passions, hopes and dreams, as well as how they would like to be remembered...their gifts to leave a legacy.



Rev. Dr. William G. Enright



Seminar participants reflecting on giving.

**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@okdfdn.org](mailto:jabowers@okdfdn.org)) at the Foundation office to advise of any errors, changes, or leave your email information.

Thank you!