

What Does Legacy Mean to You?
How will You Share Your Legacy?

A Legacy of Love of Ministry and God's Continued Work

Del City Christian Church held the last service at its "home" on August 18, 2018. Following the sale of the original church building (right), the congregation established a custodial fund with the Oklahoma Disciples Foundation (ODF) from the sale proceeds as they prayerfully considered plans for their future.

For nearly a year, the congregation nested with and became close friends with members from the Ascension Lutheran Church. They continued monthly mission work within the community and remained an individual church supporting the General Church. On September 29, 2019, they held their final worship service together and designated elders and deacons as emeriti. The next week they shared a "last supper" which focused on the symbol of remembrance that Jesus left for the world - recognizing they would go into other churches - around other tables and remember the same God in Jesus Christ that had told us to 'go into the world.'

As a final act of good stewardship and devotion, Del City Christian Church transferred the funds from their custodial fund and added additional funds to establish a permanent endowment with ODF. The church also offered many of the items within the church to other churches. The church doors are closed but the Del City Christian Church legacy will forever remain open through their memorial endowment as well as the donated furniture, communion ware, hymnals and other items now in 12 "new" Disciple Church homes and the Lutheran Church home.



First Christian Church, Del City. Designed by R. Duane Conner (1957).

The Del City Christian Church Memorial Endowment will benefit Week of Compassion, the Regional Disciple Men's "Leave No Child Behind" program and the Oklahoma Regional Church. Annual distributions from the endowment fund will make a lasting impact on these ministries. These beneficiaries will receive a letter each year from ODF reminding them that the funds they are receiving are a legacy gift from Del City Christian Church.

Additionally, the Del City Christian Church name will be etched on a nameplate and added to the ODF Chalice Society Plaque. The Chalice Society was formally established in 2017 by the ODF Board to recognize the generosity and faithfulness of individuals and extinct congregations today and tomorrow.

In a very real and tangible way the Del City church will live on through the annual distributions to the ministries they chose to support.

"May we live what we have learned, share the message we have heard, and be a light unto the world, as we do." (song verse by Jeremy Johnson).

If your church closed today, how would it be remembered?

The sidebar article on this page provides a glimpse of a special individual who lived by his actions, intentions and giving. Unknowingly he left a legacy in what he gave to others.

Churches do the same. They nurture people and influence lives through scripture, fellowship, prayer and service. Unfortunately, churches sometimes have to close. People move. Congregations age. Expenses rise and donations fall short. The Church (as a whole) doesn't die, but individual churches do.

It's a difficult subject for congregations experiencing the prospect of closing; however, with *legacy planning* a church can be empowered to finish on their own accord and leave a legacy for the future. The church can continue to influence lives in a manner in which they want to be remembered. Dying congregations have an opportunity to give birth to new ministries by joining other congregations or by selling their properties and funding ministry projects through the proceeds.

The Pastor and remaining members of Del City Christian Church took a long, hard look at their future. They decided to leave a legacy of love and commitment to the Church through a permanent endowment fund at ODF. Thirteen other Oklahoma Disciples churches have left similar legacies.

How would you want your church to be remembered?

A Legacy of Love

As a grandchild, I am a recipient of a legacy. Granddad fully influenced our lives and the lives of our spouses in fundamental ways, both complex and simple, so much so that we pass it on to our children without even meaning to. The movies we know were his VHS, the songs we know were his CDs, the furniture he built is in our homes, the musicals we went to were tickets he purchased, the notion that grapefruit is not a crowd favorite came from his breakfast, yet, the idea of looking forward to popcorn or Eskimo pie after each meal can be credited to his habits.

Most people tend to think in their later years about how they should leave a legacy, but granddad did it all along, not knowing he wouldn't be afforded that luxury in his last years. He did this simply, by sharing his life and all that was in it. He was there, available, generous, and purely himself and that was all we wanted. He encouraged us, wanted the best for us, and did all he could to contribute to that.

We are walking in a legacy and the reality is this man lives on in what he gave. We love you granddad. //

The above comments, published by permission, were extracted from the eulogy written and read by Jordan (Mortensen) Johnson in honor of her beloved granddad, Bob Eaton, longtime member of First Christian Church, Edmond. Jordan's wise and loving words shared during her granddad's service this past October touched many. We are grateful to her for allowing us to share a few of her words in this publication.

Now is the perfect time to **lower your 2019 taxes and give your new year 2020 vision.**

Begin by taking a careful look at the standard deduction, which is

- **\$12,200 for single filers**
- **\$24,400 for married couples filing jointly**

Not sure whether to itemize or take the standard deduction? We have ideas that will help lower your tax bill this year. Even better, if you want to lower taxes and increase your income, fund a charitable gift annuity with us. It gives you:

- **fixed lifetime payments** at rates as high as 9.5%
- **an income tax deduction** this year for part of the funding amount
- **capital gains** benefits when you transfer appreciated stock to fund it
- **benefits** for you and a spouse or friend when you fund it for two

Call or email us to learn all the ways we can help you see a great end to 2019 and a clear vision for 2020.



+++Fine-Tune Your 2020 Philanthropic Vision



2020 Grant Guidelines and Application Available Online

The Foundation has posted updated 2020 Grant Guidelines and a downloadable Grant Application on its website at www.okdfdn.org. It's not too early to begin filling out your application. An estimate of funds available per grant endowment will be posted on the website in late January.

OKLAHOMA DISCIPLES FOUNDATION
301 NW 36th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
www.okdfdn.org 405.525.6530

The Foundation newsletter is published quarterly. Email Julie Bowers (jabowers@okdfdn.org) to opt out or advise of any errors, changes, or to update your email and contact information. Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of this publication.

ODF STAFF
Eric S. Gray, Executive Director
Rev. Kyle V. Maxwell, Minister of Faith & Giving
Dr. Vicki Rose, Director of Operations
Julie Bowers, Development Associate
Holly Day, Administrative Assistant



Oklahoma Disciples
FOUNDATION, INC.
301 NW 36th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
Phone: 405.525.6530
www.okdfdn.org

Mail this form and check to the Foundation at the address listed above. Or, gifts may be made via PayPal or credit card online at our website listed above.

THANK YOU!

☐ I am interested in establishing a permanent endowment to benefit a heartfelt cause or church mission.

☐ I am interested in receiving information on making a bequest to the Foundation.

I/We Wish to Make a Tax-deductible Gift to: Oklahoma Disciples Foundation, Inc.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

☐ Yes! Please sign me up for email news updates.

My gift is given in (honor/memory) of:
circle one

Name: _____

YES! I would like to make a gift to ODF in the amount of:

\$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other _____

Please invest my gift in:

☐ Disciple Club supporting ODF Operations.

☐ Named Endowment Fund as listed below:

(Please list fund name)

☐ Yes, I have included ODF in my estate planning. Please call me to discuss my wishes.

*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 on the Foundation website at www.okdfdn.org. We are grateful for your gifts, support and prayers.