

# THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'

## Mission Statement

*Supporting Disciple missions in Christ's community.*

## Vision Statement

*We are called to inspire and enable Disciples' communities to be the hands and feet of Christ.*

Change is coming. The Oklahoma Disciples Foundation (ODF) is excited about the future. New mission and vision statements have been drafted, a new website is under development, we will be relocating our offices and updating our mailing address and we have formed a new entity under the ODF umbrella.

As part of our long-term Strategic Plan, the board has unanimously approved new Mission and Vision Statements (above). The goal was to have concise statements that reflect the Foundation's work today and into the future.

The Strategic Planning Committee spent more than half a day reviewing the Strategic Plan and discussing appropriate wording for new vision and mission statements. All were in agreement that Disciples, Christ, Community and Hands and Feet of Christ should be included. The focus of community was important since it broadly includes local church community involvement as well as Disciples-related organizations and institutions.

By the end of summer, our new website should be live. We hope you will find it more appealing, easy to navigate, inspiring and informative. We have been working with AquaVita Creative group out of Jenks, OK, to make our website more modern and exciting. Their expert staff has been interviewing and filming donors



We are moving from our long-time location at 301 NW 36th Street, Oklahoma City, OK.

and board members as well as filming community projects and events funded by the ODF Grants Program. We are excited to share the story of ODF through more video and photos.

The Foundation is also on the move. Many of you may know that our current building lease at the Disciples Center, 301 NW 36<sup>th</sup> Street in Oklahoma City is ending in November. Since 1963, a lease agreement with First Christian Church, Oklahoma City, allowed this space to be the home of the Christian Church in Oklahoma (Region), Oklahoma Disciples Foundation (ODF), Oklahoma Faith Network (OFN), formerly Oklahoma Conference of Churches

and Interfaith Alliance. We were optimistic that all these non-profit entities would relocate to the same shared space; however, Interfaith Alliance and OFN have already found new homes.

Since January, we have looked at numerous locations in Oklahoma City and Edmond. Our hope is to find a new place that will accommodate ODF and the Region. Our priorities are: a location that is easily accessible from major highways with ample parking, a large conference room, move-in ready, in close proximity to our current location and within our budget.

We plan to have an open house once we are in our new offices. Watch for updates in the future.

Oklahoma Chalice Publishing, L.L.C.

**CHALICE**  
*Resources*

<https://chaliceresources.com>

Oklahoma Disciples share your worship content:  
Elder & Communion Prayers,  
Communion Meditations,  
Worship Service Materials, etc.

ODF, in collaboration with the Region, recently established a new subsidiary named Oklahoma Chalice Publishing, L.L.C. This nonprofit entity was created to manage and publish worship materials and content for Oklahoma Disciples churches.

Rev. Joshua Bell, Pastor at First Christian Church, Perry, OK, and Regional Commission on Worship and Spiritual Growth Chair, created a website to collect and share worship content for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oklahoma (see sidebar for submitting content).

A 2022 ODF Grant allowed Joshua to develop the website (<https://chaliceresources.com>), which also serves as part of his research toward earning his Doctor of Ministry degree at Phillips Theological Seminary (view his paper, "You really should read the preface of the hymnal," on the website).

In July, Joshua will be visiting the five areas of the Oklahoma Region to cook barbecue for clergy/laity and share his passion, insight and goals for this program. He will also demonstrate how clergy, elders and deacons can submit content on the website. A 2023 ODF Grant provides funding for the barbecue promotions program.

## New Covenant Christian Church, OKC Serves "Breakfast Before the Bell" Weekly

Breakfast Before the Bell is a weekly feeding program hosted by New Covenant Christian Church (NCCC) in Oklahoma City. On Wednesday mornings during the school year, anywhere from 100 to 150 or more students from neighboring Putnam City North High School (PC North) walk across the high school parking lot to enjoy a free hot, nutritious breakfast served by a dedicated group of NCCC volunteers.

Following a meeting with school staff, NCCC discovered a great need for their neighbors. Students



Homemade banana bread gift from PC North student to NCCC volunteers.

were hungry. Each Wednesday morning beginning about 4:30 a.m., one NCCC volunteer makes hot pancakes, waffles, breakfast burritos, scrambled eggs, sausage biscuits and biscuits and gravy. More than half a dozen other volunteers prepare sandwiches, Ziploc bags of fruit and serve food and snacks while keeping the coffee and orange juice refilled.

A "Breakfast" flag (in PC North colors) lets students know they are welcome to walk over to a safe, clean fellowship hall where they can rest, visit, eat and pack breakfast or lunch sacks for the day. There is also free bottled water and a selection of coats for those in need of a warm jacket.

Some students come from low-income or one-parent households. Some have experienced some sort of

trauma in their lives. Several students bring their younger siblings for breakfast and to pick up to-go meals. Some come for the fellowship. Others are just hungry. One dad eats breakfast with his children each week. No one is judged.

Questions may be asked about when the school year ends or the date and time of the next band concert, or perhaps if they are in band or play a sport. The students are warmly greeted and always told to have a great day.

The ODF Grants Program has assisted with partial funding for Breakfast Before the Bell since 2019. This year, NCCC received an ODF Grant for \$2,000, half of what they requested.

While some students come alone, others come with friends. They are all respectful and appreciative. They don't take more food than needed...usually one pancake or a sausage biscuit and burrito to-go. A few ask for two muffins to take with them. Many take yogurt, granola bars and fruit for the day. Several grab pre-made sack lunches before leaving.

Recently, a young student brought homemade banana bread to the volunteers.

"You cook us breakfast each week, so I wanted to make something for you," she said.

Another young man asked to play the grand piano in the room. The melody was hauntingly beautiful and exquisite. A student eating at a nearby table asked if he wrote the music (he did).



(Back left) Eula Hledik, Associate Minister Education & Evangelism, and NCCC volunteers serve "Breakfast Before the Bell" muffins and juice to PC North student.

"Nice job, man," he replied.

By 8:45 a.m., over 100 students had been fed. Only one sausage biscuit, a spoonful of eggs, some gravy and a few biscuits remained. All the sandwiches and water were gone. The volunteers were busy planning something special for the students to celebrate the end of school and the beginning of summer.

This is just one example of how the ODF Grants program supports churches that serve as the hands and feet in Christ's community. If only there were enough funds available to fully-fund each grant request.

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