



Late Summer 2008  
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## MISSION: A PROCESS, OUR PURPOSE

In May, the Oklahoma Disciples Foundation board of directors adopted a new mission statement:

**The mission of the foundation is 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.**

Even if you have never seen the Foundation's previous mission statement, you might wonder, why adopt a new one? The answer: it is sometimes almost as much about the process as the product.

Considering what elements should be included in a mission statement requires that the members of the group tap into their shared vision. Developing the statement precipitates a discussion of ideals, values, and ethics. While Foundation board meetings always begin with a devotion and prayer, much of the board's time is spent focusing on specific agenda items: new or unfinished business such as budget reviews, committee reports, and investment data.

Talking about the Foundation's mission encourages a focus on strategic issues rather than tactics and implementation. Such long-range vision is crucial to the endurance and legacy of an organization.

ODF's mission-statement evaluation process began during a board retreat almost a year ago. Our retreat facilitator instructed directors to list ideas about what should be included in the organization's mission statement. Concepts and concerns such as ministry, faith, service, stewardship and legacy emerged as common themes. All the proposed elements served

as the basis of several draft versions of a statement. During subsequent board meetings, time was devoted to reviewing and reflecting on the Foundation's mission and on revising and fine-tuning the drafts. Board members were asked to pray about the final proposed draft before the May meeting, when the matter would come up for a vote.

A mission statement can serve as a grounding resource when a controversial matter must be addressed.

It should be capable of providing guidance when there is an issue or problem. A mission statement clarifies who we are and our purpose – what we stand for and why we do the things we do.

It is conventional for organizations – ranging from global corporations to local churches – to have a mission statement. And there is a multitude of resources and guidelines for constructing family mission statements as well as personal mission statements.

Whether you have a statement of purpose that is recorded somewhere, have you asked yourself "am I fulfilling God's purpose for my life?" and "what will my legacy be?" Anyone who thinks he is too small to make a difference has never been bitten by a mosquito!

**'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'**  
- Matthew 25:40



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](http://www.okdisciplesfoundation.org))

Disciples Club Annual Gift \$ _____
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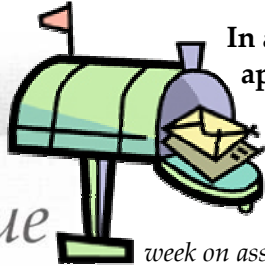
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Questions? Call 888-525-6530 (toll-free)

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## In This Issue

- ◆ ODF's Mission Statement
- ◆ PTS scholarship recipient letter
- ◆ Summer Disciples Events in Oklahoma!



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.

*"My current ministry setting is at the OU Medical Center in Oklahoma City, where I am serving as a chaplain intern. I mostly visit patients three times a week on assigned floors, but I am also learning how to provide ministry and other services to trauma patients and their families, as well as how to provide ministry in times of death.... Most of my ministry has been as a chaplain, but I also enjoy preaching and having the opportunity to get to know parishioners over an extended length of time.*

*[My] scholarship really eases the financial pressure of going to school, making it possible for me to concentrate on my studies and my ministry, without having to worry so much how the bills are going to be paid, or having to worry about taking out loans and having to repay them."*

**Tanja L. Edwards**

Fourth-year student, Phillips Theological Seminary  
 Chaplain Intern, OU Medical Center, Oklahoma City

## Oklahoma Welcomes Significant Disciples Summer Events



**SESSIONS 2008**  
 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma -- July 17-20, 2008

A rousing worship service led by Bill Lee and the Wildwood Choir Friday, July 18 at First Christian Church, Edmond was followed by a reception hosted by Oklahoma Disciples Foundation. These events were just part of **Sessions 2008** – the Disciples Men's Sessions conference – July 17-20. The conference's three-part theme was "Prioritizing Your Life, Transforming Your Heart, and Renewing Your Mind," and a review of all the Sessions opportunities can be found at [www.sessions2008.org](http://www.sessions2008.org). Funding for Sessions attendance is often supported by the Oklahoma Disciples Men endowment fund. Your gift can help ensure that scholarships for such programs are available to those who need them.



The Annual **Association of Disciple Musicians (ADM)** National Conference was held at First Christian Church, Tulsa, July 19-24. A rave review of this event can be found at [www.disciplesworld.com/newsArticle.html?wsnID=13917](http://www.disciplesworld.com/newsArticle.html?wsnID=13917),

with a review in print slated for the October 2008 issue of *Disciples World*. More information about next year's conference, membership, and the organization in general is available at the ADM website, [www.adm-doc.org](http://www.adm-doc.org).

Is there a musician in your life you would like to honor? The Association of Disciple Musicians endowment fund in the Oklahoma Disciples Foundation is one of our newest funds. If music is part of your expression of faith, a gift to this fund will help support the ministry of the ADM.

