

*Together We  
Touch Lives*



Oklahoma Disciples Foundation  
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www.okdfd.org

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## ODF Has Had an Exciting Year and The Future is Bright

This year has been a busy and exciting year for the Foundation. In February, the Foundation distributed more than \$328,000 from endowment funds to support ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Oklahoma Regional Church as well as various local ministries and missions of Disciple churches throughout the state.

### **Howard Million Dollar Matching Program Update**

Since the inception of the Howard Million Dollar Matching program in April of 2015, the Foundation has added matching funds of nearly \$249,000 to 22 endowments (17 new) within the Foundation. A total of seven endowments have been fully matched; three were partially funded; and one endowment never came to fruition. Matching applications are no longer being accepted as this program is being phased out over the next year. There are eleven remaining endowment funds which have been pre-approved for matching dollars with deadlines expiring on varying dates through the end of September 2017.

### **“The Cup Runneth Over” with Rev. Bruce Barkhauer Update**

This fall we were blessed to have Rev. Bruce Barkhauer, Executive Director of the Center for Faith and Giving, travel to Oklahoma to share his knowledge and expertise on stewardship and faithful giving at four separate events in Edmond, Enid, Tulsa and Oklahoma City. The two-day whirlwind travel across the state culminated with an evening dinner event at the Oklahoma Hall of Fame and Sports Museum where the Foundation announced plans for its new legacy society--The Chalice Society. The Foundation was also pleased to provide early release copies of Rev. Barkhauer's new stewardship devotional book “Community of Prayer” to attendees at the Monday dinner event. Several churches are using the devotional booklet as a guide for their stewardship campaigns. The Foundation has a few remaining copies of the booklet available or copies may be ordered/purchased from the Chalice Press (any royalties from the publication will directly benefit the Center for Faith and Giving, [www.centerforfaithandgiving.org](http://www.centerforfaithandgiving.org)).

### **Custodial Funds Program Fee Changes; New Money Manager; New Incentive and Grants Programs**

Over the next few months we will be making some exciting changes in our custodial funds program for churches and church-related institutions (*see related article*). A new money manager has been approved and the transition will occur by the first of the year. The Board has also approved a new incentive program for donors who name the Foundation in their will or estate plans. And the Grants Committee is creating an application process and policy for distributing a limited amount of funds through an ODF grant program by summer of 2017 (*see related article*).

### **Thanks to the ODF Board Members**

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Foundation's Board of Directors. Sixteen volunteer representatives from Disciples churches have devoted countless hours of their time, talents and guidance to oversee the Foundation's work, update policy, review proposals, interview money managers and assist with marketing. Thanks to the following: Steve Armbruster (First Christian Church, Stillwater), Adam Chace (First Christian Church, Stroud), David Eck (Central Christian Church, Enid), Frank Gresh (First Christian Church, Edmond), Inman Jones (Wildewood Christian Church, OKC), Sally Kelley (Harvard Ave. Christian Church, Tulsa), T.J. McCrite (First Christian Church, Ardmore), Claire Meredith (Riverside Christian Church, Wichita, KS), Mickey Moery (First Christian Church, Stigler), Craig Moore (First Christian Church, Norman), Christin Mugg (First Christian Church, Edmond), Michael Oberlender (First Christian Church, Chickasha), Bill Richert (Harvard Ave. Christian Church, Tulsa), Ron Savage (First Christian Church, Duncan), Kathy Standridge (First Christian Church, Sulphur), and outgoing Board President Kay Thompson (First Christian Church, Tulsa).

### **The Future is Bright**

The future looks brighter than ever and your gifts are much-appreciated. Together we can touch lives! Blessings to you and yours this holiday season,

  
Eric S. Gray  
Executive Director

*Merry Christmas*

### Limited Funds Available In 2017 From New ODF Grants Program

ODF will have a limited amount of funds available through a grant-making process beginning early next year. Several permanent endowments have been established with specific, varied purposes for providing funds to non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations.

The majority of the funds in 2017 are directed for Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) related programs, ministries and missions for children, youth and young adults. Also, funds will be available for the education of clergy, laity and congregations on the guidance and art of spiritual giving. And, some funds will be available for new churches or new ways of being a church. All grants will be awarded based on funding events or programs with potential to make the greatest impact.

A grant-making committee of current and former ODF board members will review applications and make recommendations to the ODF board of directors. Current plans are to have all application requests received by May 1, 2017 with the committee submitting to the full board for a vote at its July 2017 meeting. Checks will be mailed shortly following approval.

Grant money will be awarded to charitable entities, not individuals. Requests to discharge preexisting debts will not be considered. The application and application process will not be formalized until after the first of the year. Additional information will be available at [www.okdfd.org](http://www.okdfd.org) or by email to interested parties (please email Julie Bowers at [jabowers@okdfd.org](mailto:jabowers@okdfd.org) to be included on a list of interested parties and for email updates). Or, call 405.525.6530 for more information.

## Custodial Funds Program Offers New and Varied Fee Structure to Benefit Churches

At its October 25, 2016 board meeting, the Foundation Board of Directors voted to implement a new custodial funds fee structure in order to benefit churches placing funds within the Foundation. Previously, the custodial funds administrative/management fee charged by ODF was a flat .5% annually charged on a quarterly basis. The new structure will offer reduced fees for accounts maintaining larger balances as outlined in the following chart.

| Total funds on deposit | Quarterly fee percentage | Annual fee percentage |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| <\$1M                  | 0.125%                   | 0.5%                  |
| >=\$1M and <\$2M       | 0.0625%                  | 0.25%                 |
| >=\$2M and <\$3M       | 0.05%                    | 0.20%                 |
| >=\$3M                 | 0.0375%                  | 0.15%                 |

The custodial funds policy and custodial funds agreements have been modified to outline specifics as well as include the new fee structure and investment pool options.

The board voted unanimously on the new fee structure and considered the following:

- ODF serves as institutional memory, centralized file storage and structured brain trust for funds;
- ODF's archives survive church leadership, membership, pastoral and staff turnover whereas church records and recall sometimes reside with a few members, or are lost; and
- ODF can provide a great service to churches consisting of professional money management and reporting at reduced costs, especially in instances where churches have limited staff or volunteers with money management experience.

For more information and details call Eric Gray at 405.525.6530 or send an email to [egrays@okdfd.org](mailto:egrays@okdfd.org).



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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.

**THANK YOU!**

- I am interested in establishing a permanent endowment to benefit a heartfelt cause.
- 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 support the Foundation with:

\$25 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Invest my gift in:**

Disciple Club \_\_\_

Endowment \_\_\_

Specify Endowment Fund Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I have included ODF in my estate planning.