



The Chalice

A Newsletter for Members & Friends of First Christian Church, Conroe



September 2011

Wes' Thoughts



From the
Pastor



Dr. Wes Morgan



We Are Disciples

I am listing below some major items about us as a part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) – I hope you find them both interesting and helpful.

About The Disciples

We are Disciples of Christ,
a movement for wholeness
in a fragmented world.

As part of the one body of Christ,
we welcome all to the Lord's Table
as God has welcomed us.

Disciples of Christ Identity Statement

"We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As a part of the one Body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us."

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), while founded on American soil in the early 1800s, is uniquely equipped to live up to its identity that it is a "movement for wholeness in a fragmented world." The denomination was born in the 1800s, and continues to be influenced by its founding ideals of our unity in Christ with openness and diversity in practice and belief.

The Vision of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is:

To be a faithful, growing church, that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice. - Micah 6.8

The Mission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

To be and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps "to the ends of the earth." - Acts 1.8

The Confession of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

As members of the Christian Church,
We confess that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of the living God,

and proclaim him Lord and Savior of the world.

From [The Preamble to The Design of the Christian Church \(Disciples of Christ\)](#)

Action

The church is identified with the Protestant “mainstream” and is widely involved in social and other concerns. Disciples have supported vigorously world and national programs of education, agricultural assistance, racial reconciliation, care of the developmentally disabled and aid to victims of war and natural disasters.

Size

The denomination now counts about 700,000 members in the United States and Canada in about 3,700 congregations.

Video: A Movement For Wholeness

“A Movement for Wholeness” takes a look at the beliefs and practices of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as told through its members. You can view the video at this web address: <http://www.disciples.org/Video/tabid/422/Default.aspx>
Just copy and paste this address into your web browser.

Love & Blessings,
Wes <+><

Nashville - General Assembly

As you read my column for this week, I am in Nashville, TN with thousands of other Disciples of Christ participating in the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

Our General Assembly convenes every-other-year for the purposes of Worship, Learning, Doing Mission, Fellowship and Fun! Oh, we do some business along the way. But business is NEVER the main issue for the church. Worship and Mission (fueled by Learning) is the heart-beat and the real business of the church! When we praise God and serve God and others we ARE the church! And the natural outgrowth of being the church is fellowship and fun!

With those thoughts flowing in me, I thought it would be a good time to share my answers to the question, “Why am I a Disciple of Christ?”

I am a Disciple of Christ:

Because I believe Jesus ...

Because I accept Jesus as my Savior, and subscribe to no other test of my faith, and this church makes no other test of faith ...

Because I believe in and hold dear the values of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) which espouse the heritage of individual freedom and mutual responsibility which are captured in that most "Disciple" of phrases "in essentials unity, in nonessentials liberty, and in all things charity (love)"...

Because I believe that Scripture is our guide to the continuing revelation of God's redeeming work in this world. And that, in order for Scripture to serve as the true guide which God intended, it must be understood in the context of the times and events in which it was written AND interpreted for the times in which we live ...

Because I believe that Jesus, who is not only God's son but also God's chosen instrument

for saving this world, calls us to a lifestyle which is open -- mutual -- non-judgmental --and inclusive ...

Because I believe that the church -- the Body of Christ on earth -- is one, and is not to be divided and politicized by any of the various desires of human beings which churn within us, and call us all to judge as wrong those who disagree with us...

Because I believe that, in the sight of God, all people are equal and equally loved. (men are not greater than women -- women are not greater than men) -- and that equally we are called to places of leadership in the Body of Christ ...

Because it has been my experience in this church that all of these beliefs are honored -- honored, even when there is disagreement about the ways in which they are lived out ...

Because in this church I have experienced the love of God through people -- YOU!

I look forward to sharing more with you when I return for the General Assembly.

Love & Blessings,
Wes <+><



