



**Church Extension board of directors authorizes significant
organizational and directional change**

For Immediate Release
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Indianapolis IN – Following more than two years of research and conversation with congregational, denominational and ecumenical partners, Church Extension announces that it will implement some of the most significant structural and directional change in its 128-year history as a financial ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). These changes come in response to a major cultural shift in the North American religious landscape, specifically the need for congregations and their leaders to more effectively match their often underutilized or burdensome capital assets with their congregational missional strengths in order to better meet community and global needs.

At its July 9, 2011 meeting in Nashville, Tenn., Church Extension’s board of directors acted upon the following, so that the ministry would be better organized and positioned to help congregations put their assets – building, money, people – to work for a new era of God’s mission in the world:

- Authorized Church Extension legal counsel to file for the incorporation of Church Extension Financial and Missional Resources, Inc., which will serve as the administrative general unit for two mission concentrations – Disciples Church Extension Fund and Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation;
- Authorized counsel to file for the incorporation of one of the subsidiaries, Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation, Inc. A collaboration of Church Extension, Disciples Home Missions, Higher Education & Leadership Ministries and other regional ministry, general ministry, educational, ecumenical, congregational and community partners, Hope Partnership’s purpose is to help identify, recruit, equip and support empowered leaders – lay and clergy – to lead congregations into a new era of new and transforming mission. It will also continue work focused on the church’s new church ministry priority; and
- Voted to amend the Articles of Incorporation for Board of Church Extension for Disciples of Christ, Inc. to function in relationship to the parent Church Extension Financial and Missional Resources, Inc. This entity will do business as Disciples Church Extension Fund once the incorporations of the other two are activated. Disciples Church Extension Fund will have as its priority to lend money to congregations for capital projects, using funds provided by donors and Disciples investors from the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. More than ever before, these loans will be made to help ensure that capital assets are being mobilized to maximize congregational mission.

At this same meeting, Church Extension's board voted to move forward with four executive searches:

- President of Disciples Church Extension Fund and Co-executive of Church Extension Financial and Missional Resources, Inc.;
- President of Hope Partnership for Missional Transformation and Co-executive of Church Extension Financial and Missional Resources, Inc.;
- Executive Vice President for Operations for Church Extension Financial and Missional Resources, Inc.; and
- Assistant Treasurer, an additional officer position identified through a succession planning process.

A board committee will be named soon to begin the simultaneous search to fill the first three positions. The assistant treasurer search will be handled through a staff-led search process. The position has been posted on www.churchextension.org.

Lori Adams, Church Extension's transitional president, notes that the board actions are the culmination of much reflection and intense conversation between many key partners. She says, "It has become abundantly clear that the time is now to start putting mission first, ahead of the buildings that are choking many congregations' ability to do impactful ministry in their communities." She adds, "It is also clear that Church Extension and our partners need to collaborate to help congregations at the point of their needs, not at the point of our age-old organizational structures. That is why we will organize and operate differently so that the priorities of mission, building and leadership intersect and overlap in ways that help congregations better live out God's mission in this new day."

Church Extension, a general ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), seeks to mobilize capital and leadership resources for congregational mission, through capital loans, fundraising and mission-focused services to Disciples of Christ congregations in the context of their culture and stage of life. For more information about Church Extension, visit www.churchextension.org.