

Keeping you informed of our mutual ministries

EXTENSION

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BOARD OF CHURCH EXTENSION OF DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

This Church Didn't Need a Straw Vote

When a California architect told the congregation at Saint Andrew Christian Church in Olathe, Kansas, that he wanted to use straw to construct part of their first unit, he feared his plans would be labeled as “some crazy hippie thing.”

The congregation, only five years old, was immediately drawn to the architect's unusual idea. On April 13, the congregation broke ground on their first unit with an estimated cost of \$800,000.

According to the team of California architects, straw bale construction will be used to provide the basic form of the construction. The bales are covered with concrete, giving the exterior an adobe look. The straw and concrete will provide three times the insulation of standard wood-frame construction.

The building committee was interested in designing the facility to look similar to the congregation's sister church in El Salvador where most of the buildings are adobe.

From its inception in 1991, Saint Andrew Christian Church has drawn together diverse, energetic, faith-filled people. A sense of excitement is evident when Pastor Holly McKissick describes the new building. Says McKissick, “The building reflects who we are. It will be lovely and simple, built of solid material to show good stewardship. We hope it will be a gift to the community, a building that will light people's spirits and lift their

thoughts as they drive by.”

McKissick said that the centerpiece of the plan is a 3,200 square foot sanctuary that soars 55 feet high, the equivalent of about five stories. Built on 10 acres of land, the sanctuary will seat 300 people and feature beautiful views of the surrounding area. Current plans call for an attached hearthroom with fireplace, education and office space plus a parking lot.

Deborah R. Thompson, Director of New Congregation Establishment, sums up the success of this new congregation. “From the start, the congregation was committed to not only building a new community of faith, but to minister to a diverse and totally inclusive



Pastor Holly McKissick and building chairperson Joel Barnes (center) meet with the architects who developed the concept of using straw to construct part of the building.

(See “Straw” page 2)

Straw

(From page 1)

congregation. They have accomplished exactly what they set out to do.”

Board of Church Extension has worked extensively with the congregation over the past five years providing General and Site Consultations as well as fund raising leadership.

During a BCE directed combined funds campaign, the congregation

surpassed its \$60,000 goal by raising more than \$87,000. The congregation also received a \$5,000 new congregation establishment grant.

According to Gary Kidwell, BCE’s vice president for field services, “This is an extraordinary new congregation. Not only were we amazed to learn that the congregation surpassed its goal by \$27,000 but that nearly 100 percent of the congregation participated in the campaign.”

New, Higher Rates for Gift Annuities

Effective March 1, 1997, new, higher rates for Charitable Gift Annuities became available. Average rates have increased approximately 0.7%. For example, a 70-year-old creating a \$20,000 Gift Annuity can now receive 7.7% rather than 6.9%

for a Gift Annuity. This new higher rate would yield \$1,540 annually for life to the donor.

The Gift Annuity means a donor can receive fixed payments for the rest of his/her lifetime. A Gift Annuity can be funded with cash, appreciated stock or other assets.

There are tax benefits and this arrangement allows for charitable objectives to be met as well as support of the

ministry of Board of Church Extension. There is no limit to the number of Gift Annuities one can establish.

“I funded four Gift Annuities with BCE because I believe in the work of the Board and wanted to provide income for myself and my four adult children,” shared Alice Henry.

To discuss further benefits of establishing a Charitable Gift

Annuity using these new higher rates, please contact Ellen Mitchell at P. O. Box 7030, Indianapolis, IN 46207 or call toll-free 1-800-274-1883.



Alice Henry has funded four Gift Annuities with Board of Church Extension.



Q I understand there are life income and tax benefits available by funding a Charitable Gift Annuity, but how does BCE benefit?

A At the death of the donor or last annuitant, the remaining interest of the Gift Annuity goes to BCE. Thus, the Gift Annuity is a great arrangement to allow you to meet your charitable objectives as well as support the ministry of Board of Church Extension.

Building Highlights

Highlights of some of the hundreds of building projects you and Church Extension are helping through your gifts and investments

Three Board of Church Extension loans totaling more than \$600,000 helped finance a new 5,000 square



Rush Creek Christian Church, Arlington, Texas

foot sanctuary for members of Rush Creek Christian Church in Arlington, Texas. The \$700,000 project also included office space and a choir room.

Located in a growing area of Arlington, the congregation now

has a sanctuary for 300 people. According to Dick Lord, minister, "It was interesting to see what happened when the steel frame was in place. The number of visitors to our church doubled immediately.

"We could not have built the new sanctuary without Board of Church Extension. We knew that BCE would understand our needs more than a commercial lender," added Reverend Lord.



Members of Cypress Creek Christian Church, Spring, Texas,



Cypress Creek Christian Church, Spring, Texas

will soon be worshipping in a new sanctuary with a seating capacity of 1,000. The \$2.4 million project is expected to be completed this fall. Board of Church Extension provided

a \$1.5 million loan to assist with the project.

Not only does the Cypress Creek building house a growing ministry, but it facilitates more than 100 non-profit community groups that meet there on a regular basis.



Two Hispanic congregations in Florida are rapidly moving ahead with their building plans. Members of Primera Iglesia Cristiana Discípulos de Cristo de Miami, Florida, will soon move into their first unit. Board of Church Extension provided loans totaling \$470,000 to assist with construction costs.

"After many years of determination and hard work, our church has achieved the dream of our own home for community service and worship. We celebrate this event. It is a victory for the Hispanic speaking community of greater Miami," said minister José D. Rivera-Tormos.

Members of Iglesia Cristiana Discípulos de Cristo de Kissimmee, Florida, recently began construction on a 10,500 square foot first unit outside Orlando. Board of Church Extension provided a \$35,000 loan to help finance the land purchase. A \$395,000 loan was also made to assist with construction costs.

Visit BCE on the Internet

For information, directory of e-mail addresses, services and current loan and investment rates, visit our world wide web site at:

<http://www.disciples.org/bce/>

For general e-mail messages:
bce@bce.disciples.org

For investment information:
invest@bce.disciples.org

For development information:
emitchell@bce.disciples.org

A Moveable Feast

By Doug Bland, Pastor, Community Christian Church
Tempe/Gilbert, Arizona

Congregations are giving birth to new communities of faith,” shares Deborah R. Thompson, director of New Congregation Establishment. Such is the case with Community Christian Church, Tempe, Arizona. Pastor Doug Bland and members of this established Disciples community made a decision to respond to the great commission by extending their ministry to Gilbert, Arizona, a neighboring community. Now Community Christian Church meets in two locations.



Community Christian Church, in partnership with the Christian Church in Arizona, is part of a pilot program sponsored by New Congregation Establishment to test new models for congregations starting congregations.

Our Communion Table has wheels. Lift up the Table and wheels flip down like the landing gear on a Boeing 747 and lock into place. The wheels do more than serve a practical purpose. The Table-on-Wheels has become an important theological statement for Community Christian Church in Tempe, Arizona, reminding church members that Communion is meant to be “a moveable feast,” shared with a hungry world.

Thanks, in part, to a pilot program from New Congregation Establishment, a program of the Christian

**“We call it multi-site ministry—
one church, two locations.”**

Church (Disciples of Christ), the Arizona church has been challenged to take its “Table-on-Wheels”

out on the road. Each Sunday, “missionaries” unpack Communion from the back of their automobiles and set up for worship at the Community Center in Gilbert, a fast-growing suburb ten miles from the established Tempe location. We call it multi-site ministry—“one church, two locations.”

Both locations benefit from one another. The new worshipping community in Gilbert gives the established church renewed energy, inspiring purpose and creative

ideas for doing evangelism. The established congregation offers the emerging community in Gilbert strength, experienced leadership, stability and programming for youth, men and women.

The results of multi-site ministry have been encouraging and exciting. Several new families from Gilbert have become regular participants in worship. Next month a new church school class for elementary children will begin. A Monday evening People of the Covenant group helps meet the spiritual needs of strangers who have become new friends, and fellowship activities help participants at both locations get to know each other.

If you would like more information on Arizona’s version of “the moveable feast,” contact Rev. Doug Bland, (602) 967-5266. Perhaps it is time for your congregation to put wheels on your Table and take the gifts you have been given on the road.

For information on a variety of ways your congregation might help support a new community of faith, contact your regional office or Deborah Thompson, director of New Congregation Establishment, P. O. Box 7030, Indianapolis, IN 46207; (800) 274-1883.

Honor Thy Father and Mother

It was only 16 months after the loss of my father when my mother passed away. My sister and I were devastated yet grateful we had our parents for as long as we did.

Both Mom and Dad had been great stewards of their resources. Both supported the Church. Both were investors at BCE. It seemed fitting not only to honor and memorialize each of these two special people in a lasting way but also continue to help a ministry they knew to be so impor-

tant. Thus, we established a BCE Memorial Fund for each parent in the year of their passing. Contributions came from family and friends.

If you have faced the loss of a loved one, you too can consider establishing a Memorial Fund through BCE for \$500 or more. At this time of year when we honor our parents with special days, perhaps BCE can help you memorialize a parent who is gone. It would be a great way to honor a father or mother. *—Ellen L. Mitchell, Editor*

Gifts to Keown Fund Help New Church Program

Recent gifts to the Jim R. Keown Named Fund for New Congregation Establishment have raised the total to \$10,761. Keown retired in 1996 as BCE's vice president for special services.

As an established Named Fund, it not only honors Jim Keown and his more than 17 years of ministry with the Board, but also provides support to the New Church program efforts.

"It is my sincere hope that not only will this fund continue to grow through additional gifts, but that others will consider establishing their own funds which will further

our efforts in providing financial grants and training support to new congregations," responds Deborah Thompson, director of New Congregation Establishment.

Additional support of the New Church program through gifts can be made by contacting Ellen Mitchell, Board of Church Extension, P. O. Box 7030, Indianapolis, IN 46207 or calling 1-800-274-1883.

Planned Giving and Wills Seminar Available

Board of Church Extension's Planned Giving and Wills Seminar assists individuals within a congregation in addressing the needs of establishing a will, updating a will and including charitable bequests in a will. This service is provided without charge to the church and lasts about one hour.

If you are interested in scheduling a Planned Giving and Wills Seminar, contact Ellen Mitchell at P.O. Box 7030, Indianapolis, IN 46207 or call toll free 1-800-274-1883.

Two Percent Added to Named and Extenders Funds

Net operating income and gains in securities in 1996 allowed the Board to add 2% to the Named and Extenders Funds.

"We are delighted that net operating income and realized gains in securities in 1996 again enabled the Board to add 2% to our Named and Extenders Funds," stated James P. Hamlett, BCE vice president and treasurer. "The growth of these funds helps BCE provide services at little or no fee and loans at favorable rates."

You can help in these efforts by considering a Named Fund gift of \$5,000 or an Extenders Fund gift of \$25,000. Funds can be created by gifts over several years.

BCE Dinner to Focus on Accessibility

The first dinner of the Denver General Assembly will be hosted by Board of Church Extension from 5:15 to 7:15 on Friday, July 25.

Plan now for a celebrative evening at the **Denver Marriott Hotel - City Center.**

Ginny Thornburgh, Director, Religion and Disability Program for the National Organization on Disability, will be the guest speaker. She is co-author of *That All May Worship: An Interfaith Welcome to People with Disabilities.*

Cost of the event is \$20. A limited number of tickets will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.



Tickets must be purchased directly from BCE. No tickets will be sold in Denver.

Purchase tickets by contacting Dawn Pitcock, Board of Church Extension, P. O. Box 7030, Indianapolis, IN 46207; phone toll free 1-800-274-1883

or e-mail dpitcock@bce.disciples.org

We invite all of you to join us as we acknowledge special donors and investors and hear how churches are making their facilities and ministries more accepting and accessible for people with disabilities and how Board of Church Extension helps this become possible.

BCE Leaders to Preach in Denver Churches

Three BCE-related ministers will be preaching in Denver, Colorado area churches on General Assembly Sunday morning, July 27. The Rev. Deborah R. Thompson, director of New Congregation Establishment, will preach at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Denver.

The Rev. Marvin K. Eckfeldt, senior minister at First Christian

Church, Kent, Wash., and a current BCE board member, will preach at Goode Centennial United Methodist Church, Commerce City.

Dr. C. William Nichols, Decatur, Ill., retired general minister and president and former BCE board member, will preach at First Baptist Church, Denver.

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