



Keeping you informed of our mutual ministries

# EXTENSION

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BOARD OF CHURCH EXTENSION OF DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

## BCE Dinner Recognizes Donors and Architectural Excellence

Six hundred BCE friends gathered in Cincinnati, Ohio, on October 8, 1999 over dinner, to recognize donors and church architectural excellence.

Elder Edward Griffin of Detroit, Michigan, was honored for his years of invested support and ultimate intent to donate one of his BCE notes to the Board. Mary Shour accepted the plaque for Independence Boulevard Christian Church in Kansas City, Missouri, as it was honored for providing generous gifts in the form of Memorial Funds to the Board's Accessibility Loan Fund. The church was also cited for its desire to not only honor longtime members of the congregation but to help other congregations remove barriers. Likewise, Sam and Mary Howard of Tulsa, Oklahoma, were recognized for their gifts of appreciated stock and Charitable Gift Annuities supporting the Accessibility Loan Fund so that congregations can become accessible through a low-interest loan fund.

Architectural excellence was also a focus of the evening with 12 such recognitions. Six were honored for their work that achieved greater accessibility.

- Jurists praised **Creekwood Christian Church** in Flower Mound, Texas, for the integration of handicapped accessibility into the heart of the design.

- **Cleveland Heights Christian Church**, Cheektowaga, New York, developed a new addition that provided for an accessible covered entry and a new central elevator.

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*Independence Boulevard Christian Church, Kansas City, Missouri, was honored for past donations to BCE during Board of Church Extension's dinner at the Cincinnati General Assembly on October 8.*

“  
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 ”

## NCE Takes a New, Clear Focus for the New Century

When Board of Church Extension staff and directors recently approved a new vision statement, new energy was infused into the commitment to help start new congregations.

The statement was developed through reading, Bible study, prayer, discussion, and it reads: *Board of Church Extension of Disciples of Christ is called to provide resources that channel the energy of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) into physical form—including facilities and new congregations.*

Vertie Powers, NCE director, responded to the new focus of BCE with a clear vision statement for the program: “As Disciples we are called to make the mandate of Jesus a reality by identifying, developing, and resourcing leaders to evangelize and make new Disciples by birthing new communities of faith.”

Vertie’s new vision for New Congregation Establishment means more educational opportunities; sharing of new congregation pastor’s testi-  
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### BCE Dinner

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- **Hazelwood Christian Church** in Muncie, Indiana, paid careful attention to accessibility as new restrooms and an elevator were part of its design.

floor elevations with a new addition that offered a series of internal ramps for accessibility to all major areas of the building.

- **First Christian Church, Corvallis, Oregon**, took the top award for accessibility when it solved a complex congestion challenge through a ground-level entrance, simplified and enlarged narthex, elevator to all levels, and two new accessible restrooms.

The BCE General Assembly dinner program clearly showed that through donations to the Accessibility Loan Fund and fine examples of architectural design for accessibility, more people can enter, use and participate in houses of worship.



*Sam and Mary Howard of Tulsa, Oklahoma, were honored during BCE’s General Assembly dinner for their commitment to the accessibility loan fund.*

- **Carlock Christian Church** in Carlock, Illinois, achieved a ground-level entry and a limited-use elevator for just over \$74,000.

- **First Christian Church of Stow, Ohio**, tackled numerous existing



*Elder Edward Griffin of Detroit, Michigan, was honored for his long-time commitment to the ministry of Board of Church Extension during the General Assembly dinner.*

# Building Highlights

**H**ighlights of some of the hundreds of building projects you and Church Extension are helping through your gifts and investments.



Congratulations to pastor Irma Rodríguez and the congregation of **Mision Cristiana Hispana del Oeste de Orlando, Florida**. The congregation recently dedicated a new sanctuary and continues to fill



*The sanctuary of Mision Cristiana Hispana del Oeste de Orlando, Florida, is accessible to all people.*

it to near capacity, according to Luis E. Ferrer, BCE general consultant.

Just eight years ago, pastor Rodríguez began the ministry in her Orlando home. Her ministry caught on quickly and in a few months had more than 60 people worshipping in her den and family room. Suddenly, parking became a huge problem in her neighborhood.

Since then, the congregation has grown rapidly. Board of Church Extension first provided loans totaling \$50,000 to assist the church in purchasing a house that would eventually be renovated for first-unit worship space.

The congregation quickly outgrew the worship space and BCE provided a \$75,000 loan for a new sanctuary to house the growing congregation. The new sanctuary was dedicated this past summer.



It was frustrating for some members with special needs to worship at **Park Avenue Christian Church** in Des Moines, Iowa. The stairs became a barrier to worship.

At times, members with special needs had to go to the fellowship hall to observe worship services on closed-circuit television since the sanctuary was not accessible. Thanks to the commitment of church members, an elevator was added and now anyone can reach the sanctuary.

“I was told,” said Maribeth Blackman, BCE general consultant, “the worship space at Park Avenue

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**Q & A**

**Q** I know there is a need to support the Accessibility Loan Fund but what are my options?

**A** You can select to send any amount to BCE as an Annual Gift for the Accessibility Loan Fund or you can establish a Memorial Fund at \$500, a Named Fund at \$5,000, or an Extenders Fund at \$25,000 to support Accessibility. In fact, when even a Charitable Gift Annuity is established, the Accessibility Loan Fund can be listed to be supported.

## Consider Two Ways for Your Money to Work for You and BCE

There are several ways your money can support BCE's ministry and you. Here are two:

### *With benefits like...*

- lifetime payments
- higher interest rates
- charitable tax deductions

many friends of Board of Church Extension are funding Charitable Gift Annuities with cash or appreciated stock to benefit themselves and the Board.

Use the toll-free number of 1-800-274-1883 to receive more information and get personal calculations.

1. A **Charitable Gift Annuity** can be used to provide lifetime payments and plan to support the ministry of BCE. For example: a 70-year-old creating a \$20,000 Gift Annuity receives 7.5 percent or \$1,500 annually for life and knows there will be support of BCE's ministry.
2. Also, you are well aware that BCE **IRAs** are a great way to accumulate funds for your retirement and support BCE. What you may not know is that **IRAs** can be a very poor way to transfer accumulated wealth to your beneficiaries. Taxes on the beneficiary distributions from an **IRA** can be as much as 60 percent. In addition to possible inheritance taxes on the total value of the account, **IRA** contributions and earned income are subject to income tax as well.

Using an **IRA** to fund a planned charitable estate gift may be an excellent alternative which could provide for less tax on your estate, and provide more for distribution to your beneficiaries.

For instance, you could designate that funds from an IRA go directly to a charitable beneficiary like Board of Church Extension—free of all income and estate taxes. There would be no federal estate tax because of the estate tax charitable deduction and no income tax because of BCE's charitable organization's exemption from income taxes. Then, you could consider alternative ways to provide for a family member as with a Charitable Gift Annuity.

*For further information on IRAs, you may contact Elaine Barnett at 1-800-274-1883 or [invest@churchextension.org](mailto:invest@churchextension.org)*

From Ellen L. Mitchell, editor

Here is a sampling of what we hear you saying about your partnership with BCE's ministry:

**"As I recently supported BCE's Accessibility Loan Fund, I remembered the times I helped a blind woman into an accessible church building; realizing that some facilities could cause great struggles for those with disabilities."**

*—Ray Reeder, Albuquerque, New Mexico*

**"I have found a joy in making charitable contributions which benefit the good work of Board of Church Extension."**

*—Rosalie Logan, Jacksonville, Illinois*

**"Through my invested funds I know I am not only helping someone else but myself too!"**

*—Dorothy Lancaster, Tucson, Arizona*

**"I have discovered the JOY OF GIVING through BCE. What a privilege to share in this form of stewardship."**

*—Frank Mullen, New York, New York*

## Need an emphasis on Planned Giving and Wills in your congregation?

Listen to what Brian Gerard, pastor of First Christian Church, Montgomery, Alabama, said of BCE's Planned Giving and Wills Seminar service.

"The Planned Giving and Wills Seminar provided to our congregation by Board of Church Extension could not have been better. Its faith-based approach to this important topic was easy to understand, encouraging, and quite enjoyable. I cannot think of a single reason why a church would not want to host this seminar."

Interested? Contact Ellen Mitchell at 1-800-274-1883 or E-mail her at [emitchell@churchextension.org](mailto:emitchell@churchextension.org) for more information on this service provided at no fee to your congregation.

## Building Highlights

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Christian Church is very inviting and recent renovations allow members with special needs to feel like a part of the Park Avenue family."

The congregation raised in excess of \$206,000 during a BCE-directed capital fund campaign, which assisted the congregation in making its facility more accessible. Additional renovations also included additional classroom and parking space, and an added entryway. A \$359,000 BCE loan was also provided to assist with the project.



The congregation of **Heart of the Rockies Christian Church** in Ft. Collins, Colorado, has come a long way since its initial worship service on Palm Sunday 1993. It has moved three times during the past seven years, but finally has prime space in a rapidly growing area of suburban Denver where the first unit will be housed.

Since 1993, BCE has provided loans totaling more than \$1 million to assist with first-unit construction and site development. The congregation also conducted a BCE-directed capital fund campaign, raising more than \$148,000 to assist with the building project.

According to Jeff Wright, minister, "God has situated us at what has become a major intersection in the middle of a rapidly growing area of Ft. Collins. Our property master plan includes a multipurpose building that can be used daily for the greatest variety of ministries and community needs."

The congregation will enjoy worship space for more than 300 persons, along with a nursery, multipurpose classrooms, a kitchen, restrooms, and offices. An attractive narthex will host fellowship and small group gatherings. Plans also include landscaping that will reflect the congregation's appreciation of the property and invite others into the building where they may experience God's grace.



*Jeff Wright (left), minister of Heart of the Rockies Christian Church, Ft. Collins, Colorado, meets with others to inspect the excavated site where the congregation's first unit will be built.*

## NCE Takes a New, Clear Focus for the New Century *(continued from page 2)*

monies and experiences; encouraging seminary students to consider NCE ministry; mentoring and partnering with regions, areas, congregations, general units, and Disciples-related bodies in new ways. Vertie shares, "We have a new clear focus for a new century and it is exciting!"

James L. Powell, BCE president, feels, "We are so committed to the new BCE mission statement that I have asked Rick Reisinger, BCE executive vice president, to administer this new directive. We are called to the Great Commission. Rick will join Vertie in helping all of us move forward in the funding and growth of establishing new congregations."

If you want more information on how you can be involved with NCE through

- hands-on volunteer work,
- gifts to the ministry,
- estate plans to support NCE,
- quick survey for your church to check your readiness to start a new congregation,

contact Vertie Powers at:

New Congregation Establishment  
130 East Washington Street  
P.O. Box 7030  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46207  
(800) 274-1883  
vpowers@churchextension.org



RELIGIOUS COMMUNICATION CONGRESS 2000  
March 29 – April 1, 2000 in Chicago  
For more information: 271-870-2985  
www.RCC2000.org

"Faith Stories in a Changing World," theme of the once-in-a-decade Religious Communication Congress 2000, will bring local, national and international church leaders together to improve their communication skills. Congregational leaders are encouraged to participate in this global gathering March 29 through April 1, 2000, in downtown Chicago. Included will be headline speakers and more than 150 workshops with practical help for ministers, newsletter editors, storytellers, and others.

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