



For Immediate Release
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Church Extension president transitions into new role
Transitional president named

Indianapolis, IN – After more than 27 years of exceptional leadership with Church Extension of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), James L. Powell will step down as president of Church Extension on August 1, 2010, and assume a new role as Senior Advisor for Advancement. As part of the process of determining future permanent leadership, Lori Adams has been appointed Transitional President, until such time as permanent leadership is determined.

In his new role, Powell will focus on gifts/grants development and working with Ellen Mitchell, vice president for Donor, Investor and Church Relations, and other Church Extension leaders to strengthen support for Church Extension's service to congregations.

With the support of donors, investors and other ministry and ecumenical partners, Church Extension has been providing loans and other mission-driven capital funding and planning services to Disciples congregations for nearly 127 years to help them house and live out their mission in the context of their culture and stage of life.

As Senior Advisor for Advancement, Powell will nurture support for Church Extension's evolving mission by building and strengthening networks of current and potential partners, advocates and donors. He also will expand relationships with grant-making organizations and foundations and will work with Church Extension investment staff to grow the base of individual investors. Powell will work in this capacity until his official retirement from Church Extension on July 31, 2011.

Powell has served as president of Church Extension since 1995, after leading the denomination's new church initiative in the 1980s and serving as vice president for Congregational Services. As president, Powell has made major contributions to Church Extension's efforts to better serve the ever-changing face of the Christian Church.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Maryland and his Master of Divinity degree from Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. Prior to joining Church Extension, Powell served as pastor of two Indiana congregations and as associate

regional minister of the Christian Church in Indiana. He has also worked with many initiatives and boards of the Christian Church during his distinguished career.

Also effective August 1, 2010, Lori Adams, currently Church Extension's vice president for Missional Development and Operations, will begin serving as Transitional President for the ministry. Her role will be to work with the organization's leadership to oversee its ongoing operations and to develop the plan for Church Extension's emerging vision for serving congregations in more effective and collaborative ways.

Adams is not a candidate for president of Church Extension as the position is currently constructed. Church Extension is in a discernment process to determine the type of leadership configuration needed for the emerging Church Extension organization. When the search begins, an open Executive Search Process will be used.

Prior to coming to Church Extension in 2002, Adams served for seven years in the Office of the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She holds a bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, and Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Vanderbilt Divinity School. She currently coordinates daily operations, new service development, human resources and organizational transformation for Church Extension. She also consults with congregations in decline to help them assess, create and implement a new vision for the future.

Board of Directors Chair Nancy Brink expresses deep confidence in Powell and Adams as they begin their new roles at Church Extension. "Jim is an extraordinary leader," Brink says, "and one of his greatest strengths is his ability to recognize and engage the God-given gifts of others, so that congregations can be served. He has fostered a culture of excellence at Church Extension, empowering visionary leaders to continually innovate and collaborate." She adds, "Lori is one of those leaders, and she and the rest of the leadership team and staff will help move Church Extension ahead during this interim period in ways that will honor Jim and his own vision for the organization and the churches we serve."

Called by God, Church Extension, together with our investors and partners, offers mission-driven capital planning and funding 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.