



INDIANAPOLIS WILL EXTEND ITS HOSPITALITY TO DISCIPLES IN 2009

Disciples will be greeted with outstanding hospitality when they arrive in Indianapolis in July. The city has served as the General Office for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for decades. But this will be the first time in 19 years that Disciples have gathered for an Assembly in the "Circle City."

All General Assembly meetings will be at the Indiana Convention Center, in the heart of the city, within easy, comfortable walking distance of a variety of hotels.

Those who attend the Assembly and their families will find it easy to get acquainted with Indianapolis. Intriguing public art, exciting galleries, museums, shopping and recreation are placed throughout the city. You can satisfy your appetite along the way at a wide variety of restaurants, ethnic eateries and cafes, and later be entertained in dozens of theatres and nightspots. The city also has your tickets for an assortment of professional sports and cultural performances.

Indianapolis is commonly referred to as the Crossroads of America and is easily accessible from a variety of locations, with many interstate highways bisecting the city. Almost half the nation's population is within a day's drive, which makes traveling or carpooling to Indy an attractive option. If flying will bring you to the Assembly, the Indianapolis International Airport offers travel on nearly a dozen airlines, and nonstop and direct flights to about 40 destinations. Train service is offered from select sites. And, it's only a short 15-minute drive by car to the heart of downtown, where you'll find adequate and diverse hotels and accommodations.

Along with General Assembly speakers, music, worship, learning and mission activities, let Indiana history and heritage stir your spirit.

Monument Circle, in the downtown, is the site of frequent festivals and concerts. The layout of the area helps give the city its reputation as the Circle City. The area also is home to the 284-foot Soldiers' & Sailors' Monument. Dedicated in 1902 and made of Indiana limestone, the monument stands as a tribute to the Indiana servicemen who served in wars before World War I. Thirty-two stories up, an observation tower provides a panoramic view of the city skyline.

Considered second only to Washington, DC, in number of memorials, Indianapolis pays homage and respect to Medal of Honor recipients, fallen law enforcement and firefighters and Indiana

servicemen and women who died in conflicts from the Civil War to Somalia. Indianapolis is also home to one of only 26 national monuments in the country. Situated on the east bank of the Central Canal, the USS Indianapolis Memorial recognizes those who died on the last U.S. ship to sink during World War II.

You will likely please everyone in your family or group by visiting attraction-filled White River State Park. Nestled in the heart of downtown, the park has an array of cultural, educational and recreational activities. Within the park is the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, a showplace for the art, culture and history of the American West and its indigenous people.

White River State Park also allows visitors to follow the journey of the student-athlete at the NCAA Hall of Champions. Through a variety of highly interactive displays and video presentations, visitors are able to see and hear athletes and coaches describe how they excelled in their respective sports.

Get back to nature at the Indianapolis Zoo and White River Gardens, where plants and animals are the main attraction. The nation's only accredited combined zoo, aquarium and botanical garden, it occupies 64 acres in White River State Park.

You can explore Indiana's past, present and future through a variety of interactive exhibits at the Indiana State Museum, also located in the park. While there, get a first-hand account of the state's African-American history in the Legacy Theater, where four themed performances stages provide a diverse cultural experience of black heritage in Indiana, or see a larger-than-life movie at the IMAX Theater.

While you are in the city, you may want to make arrangements to visit Christian Theological Seminary, located on a beautiful campus a few miles from the downtown. The seminary is related to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and is a place where you will get a chance to interact with seminary students from around the world as they prepare for a life of ministry and community service.

Regardless of what you do in Indianapolis, you will find it to be an upbeat and diverse community with an exciting array of arts, attractions, historical sites and special events. To learn more about Indianapolis, go to: <http://www.indy.org/indianapolis/web/jsp/index.jsp>
