

**ORGANIZATION WITH RECOGNIZED RELATIONSHIP REPORTING THROUGH
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

DISCIPLESWORLD, INC.

Kristine Culp, Chair of Board

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DisciplesWorld, Inc. was founded in March, 2002 to publish *DisciplesWorld*, a journal of news, opinion, and mission for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Sponsored by the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, DisciplesWorld, Inc., was “recognized” as an organization of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) by action of the General Assembly in October, 2003.

News, opinion, and mission. In 2008, DisciplesWorld, Inc. published 10 issues of *DisciplesWorld* addressing a variety of themes including immigration, the ordination of gays and lesbians, the fortieth anniversary of Disciples’ restructure, and the thirtieth anniversary of the Jonestown massacre. News from local churches, regions, general ministries, and ecumenical friends filled the pages. Opinions were shared in 10 editorials, 5 speak out columns, and 82 letters-to-the-editor.

Website. The magazine’s website — www.disciplesworld.com — which features daily news stories about Disciples, churches in North America, and religious communities around the world, has become an important source of information and an important home for Disciples dialogue. Linking to dozens of Disciples bloggers, the website connects Disciples in cyberspace easily and effectively.

Service to the church. *DisciplesWorld* supports the “covenantal values” of the church and the priorities of the “2020 Vision.” The staff, consultants, and volunteers work collaboratively with all expressions of the church. *DisciplesWorld* strives to cover news of the church objectively and in-depth, including major stories like the work of the Mission Alignment Coordinating Council, the financial struggles of Lexington Theological Seminary, and the good news of Disciples Mission Fund. Our mission is to keep church members informed about all aspects of the organization so that they, as knowledgeable equal partners, might participate in the solutions.

Partnerships. *DisciplesWorld* works in partnership with regional and general ministries. We provided publishing services to Disciples of Christ Historical Society in 2008 for its semi-annual publication, *Discipliana*. *DisciplesWorld* also works with congregations to tell their stories. In 2008, we published 31 stories in 10 issues featuring local churches, and another 24 on the website. An exciting partnership with International Disciples Women’s Ministries was launched in 2008 to publish *Just Women*, a new quarterly magazine for Disciples women. The reception has been positive, the partnership fruitful, and we remain hopeful about the success of this new venture.

Finances in 2008. Not funded by Disciples Mission Fund, *DisciplesWorld* covers its expenses with earned income from subscriptions, advertising, and gifts. Subscriptions earned 36 percent of income in 2008, advertising earned 29 percent, and gifts and pledges comprised 35 percent. Circulation decreased in 2008 to 8,472, the annual fund was lower than 2007, and advertising income trailed budget projections. DisciplesWorld, Inc. concluded 2008 with a significant operational deficit. A major gift in 2009 provides the corporation with an opportunity to develop a new savvy sustainable business plan for the future of our publishing needs.