

NO. 0908

**Report of Disciples of Christ Historical Society to the General Board of the
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**

Glenn Thomas Carson, President

Our Vision

At Disciples of Christ Historical Society we envision the unity of all persons of faith through shared understanding of individual histories and creeds.

Our Mission

The mission of Disciples of Christ Historical Society is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ by preserving the heritage and telling the story of the Stone-Campbell tradition.

As a general ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and as a servant to all expressions of the Stone-Campbell movement, Disciples of Christ Historical Society is the primary archive, library, and collective memory for congregations throughout the world. We serve professional historians in need of research materials, as well as those who for reasons, both personal and spiritual, wish to learn more about Christian history.

Our purpose, however, is not only to collect and maintain data and artifacts. We are a repository and we are more. The Historical Society is an agency of proclamation. We cherish the teachings of our founders and we share their vision of unity among all people of faith. Our mission, then, is to insure that the ideal which was delivered to us – an open and welcoming Church – will remain available for the generations to come.

Recent Activity

- Promotion of the celebration of the bicentennial of Thomas Campbell's "Declaration and Address" through a special website GreatCommunion.org.
- Re-furbishing of exhibit hall in the Thomas W. Phillips Memorial named in honor of Oscar Haynes. Dedication in July 2008.
- First annual exhibit in the new Oscar Haynes Exhibit Hall opened in July 2008. The exhibit on the history of the National Convocation will be on display until the fall of 2009.
- Distribution of 120,000 "Disciples Identity" cards to over 450 congregations.
- On-line Sunday School curriculum, *Streamers*, on the history and beliefs of Disciples available for free download on DisciplesHistory.org. Over 400 congregations have used the material thus far.
- Plans underway to re-furbish and name our reading room in honor of Evelyn and Harold Watkins. Dedication in early 2010.
- Several books published under the Historical Society imprint, Polar Star Press.

- Into second year of publication of redesigned *Discipliana*, our journal of Stone-Campbell history.
- Biennial Reed Lecture held in 2008 at Pepperdine University, Mark Noll of Notre Dame presenting; biennial Kirkpatrick Lecture scheduled for May 16, 2009 at Southport Christian Church (DOC), Indianapolis, Keith Watkins presenting.
- Funds being raised for addition of All Persons Access to front of our building. A partial grant given by the Beasley Foundation.
- Stone-Campbell World History Project underway, with 14 historians producing the first-ever comprehensive and contextual history of the movement. Publication expected in 2012. The Project is a joint venture of Disciples of Christ Historical Society and Chalice Press.
- Aided a record number of persons from around the world in 2008 in research on Stone-Campbell history.

Disciples Mission Fund

Disciples of Christ Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the receipt of DMF monies in 2008, which represented 12% of our overall budget.

Submitted by the President on behalf of DCHS and its Board of Trustees
April 2009

**Organization with Recognized Relationship Reporting Through
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

DISCIPLESWORLD, INC.

Kristine Culp, Chair of Board

Verity A. Jones, Publisher and Editor

6325 N. Guilford Avenue, Suite 213, Indianapolis, IN 46220

317 375-8846, www.disciplesworld.com

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.

DisciplesWorld, Inc.
Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2008

ASSETS	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Current Assets:		
Cash	\$ 9,117.88	\$ 110,737.52
Accounts Receivable	9,420.97	25,943.44
Prepaid Expense	2,537.86	2,961.24
Certificate of Deposit	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>21,076.71</u>	<u>139,642.20</u>
Depreciable Assets:		
Office Equipment	15,191.27	12,408.84
Less Depreciation	<u>11,359.49</u>	<u>9,355.25</u>
Net Depreciable Assets	<u>3,831.78</u>	<u>3,053.59</u>
Other Assets:		
Lease Deposit	<u>1,070.00</u>	<u>1,070.00</u>
Net Other Assets	<u>1,070.00</u>	<u>1,070.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 25,978.49</u>	<u>\$ 143,765.79</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable	\$ 19,800.26	\$ 3,252.61
Accrued Expenses	942.26	965.69
Payroll Withholding	9,362.77	18,633.64
Unearned Subscriptions – Current Portion	109,290.69	129,792.10
Loan BCE	<u>14,062.66</u>	<u>99.86</u>
Total Current Liabilities	153,458.64	152,743.90
Long Term Liabilities:		
Unearned Subscriptions – Non-current	<u>43,267.85</u>	<u>32,448.02</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	196,726.49	185,191.92
Restricted- Move	1,070.00	1,070.00
Net Assets	<u>(171,818.00)</u>	<u>(42,496.13)</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 25,978.49</u>	<u>\$ 143,765.79</u>

Recommended Action:

The General Board receives the report of Disciples of Christ Historical Society and DisciplesWorld, Inc.