

NATIONAL CITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH FOUNDATION

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For nearly 80 years National City Christian Church has sought to live out Alexander Campbell's vision to uphold a momentous church facility in the city known for its national and world leaders so that the Gospel of Jesus Christ might be proclaimed. National City Christian Church Foundation is honored to be one of the recognized organizations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. It holds in trust the ownership of the church property and its facilities on behalf of the wider church. It is led by a national board of trustees and reports to the General Assembly. The Foundation is yoked in partnership with the congregation of National City Christian Church to provide a national facility for worship, study, ministry, and mission in the U.S. capital. *The Promise* communicates this unique national witness in photos and words. Complimentary copies are available by writing to cwalsh@nationalcitycc.org.

As a multiracial, multicultural, bilingual, open and affirming congregation, National City Christian Church is seeking to nurture leadership, partner with other expressions of the church, and be a pro-reconciliation / anti-racism church. The following is a snapshot of the fruit of our labor in Christ:

- National City Christian Church Foundation took its story with an information booth and global fair trade gift shop to the 2009 General Assembly meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Hundreds of young people "bunked" down in the facilities to experience a life-changing mission trip or International Affairs experience.
- National City enjoyed welcoming the U.S. Conference of the World Council of Churches for an interfaith prayer service and dinner celebration that included denominational heads from many of the faith communions in the United States.
- The board of directors of Church World Service met for a four-day meeting.
- Partnering with the Capital Area Christian Church, National City hosted a leadership development event for church leaders of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ.
- Thousands entered the sanctuary on several Saturday mornings as families sought help for restructuring their mortgages through the services of the Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America (NACA).
- The Hispanic congregation nested at National City continued to see growth in worship numbers and in small groups, thanks to the very capable leadership of its pastor, Noemi P. Mena.
- The young adult fellowship (Yada) grew in its weekly Bible study, community ministries, and its number of participants.
- The LGBT Fellowship continued to grow in its participation and ministry to the community.
- On the portico steps of National City, hundreds of people joined in a lively organ concert, popcorn, and warm welcome following the Capital Pride parade.

-On those same steps the congregation greeted neighborhood pet owners and their dogs for a third annual community blessing of the animals.

-Hilda's International Fair Trade Gift Shop received a complete face-lift and expanded its hours at the close of the year. This shop run by volunteers raises awareness and money to support artists in developing countries.

-Thousands of neighbors were fed through the weekly food pantry ministry.

-The ordination of Gethsemane mission year alum Nathan Hill and the ordination of former staff member Monte Hillis were hosted and celebrated at National City Christian Church.

-The stained glass artist of the Hastings Memorial Window, Rowan LeCompte, spoke on Heritage Sunday as the congregation remembered with thanksgiving the ministry of J. Warren Hastings.

-With nearly 550 in attendance at Easter, and then again on Christmas Eve, National City Christian Church celebrated with two of its largest numbers of worship participants in many years.

-Numeric growth has been enjoyed in all three Sunday morning worship experiences – Gospel, Traditional, and Spanish-speaking services.

The year was not without significant challenges. The financial and economic crash of 2008 has been a tremendous setback for many institutions that relied heavily on invested endowments for their general budgets. National City Christian Church Foundation was not spared this dreadful downturn. In addition, financial irregularities were discovered in 2008 which has set in motion an arrest of the former CFO as well as a claim with the insurance company. Our gratitude is extended to the tireless work of the Assistant U.S. Attorney's office and the strong partnership and ministry of the United Church Insurance Board. Much of the senior staff's time, energy, and emotions have been engaged in a forensic audit and setting into place best accounting practices. While this labor continues, National City Christian Church Foundation is greatly indebted to the staff persons and church leaders who have given generously of their time, skill, and money, as well as the meticulous and difficult work of the audit committee of the Foundation.

The Board of Trustees has elected Richard L. Hamm to be its next Board of Trustee Chairperson. Dr. Hamm has served the Christian Church very well in congregational and regional ministry, as well as its General Minister and President. Presently Dr. Hamm is executive administrator of the Christian Churches Together in the U.S.A. and partner of the Columbia Partnership. John D. Arterberry has served with excellence in the role of acting chairperson. Mr. Arterberry's leadership and insights have been invaluable in this time of challenges. The Foundation is greatly appreciative and truly humbled by the tremendous generosity and faithful support of the Foundation trustees, congregational leadership, and Disciples of Christ around the world.

As always, National City Christian Church enjoys greeting and worshipping with Disciples from all around the world each and every Sunday. Tours of the facilities are available during the week upon request. All are invited to learn more about this unique witness of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) by visiting www.nationalcitycc.org. Come and share in your national witness in the U.S. capital.