



For immediate release
Additional information:
Jim Cullumber
(800) 668-8016

Christian Church Foundation Honors Cherry Log CC

To see the latest Foundation updates, like us at www.facebook.com/christianchurchfoundation

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Cherry Log Christian Church has been named the 2017 recipient of the James P. Johnson Stewardship Award from the Christian Church Foundation.

The award, to be presented during the General Assembly in Indianapolis July 11, honors a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregation that demonstrates leadership, creativity and integrity in answering God’s call to faithful stewardship, including the faith discipline involved in the stewardship of accumulated resources.

The congregation has enthusiastically developed a planned giving ministry, complete with a legacy society and intentional promotional efforts to invite all to consider an end-of-life gift to the church. Starting its “Legacy Partners Foundation” in 2013, the congregation now has more than 60 people who have included the congregation in their legacy giving plans.

The church says a “Legacy Partner is one who loves Christ and chooses, through end of life planned giving, to build a bridge between today and tomorrow for Cherry Log Christian Church ministries. Such giving provides a living legacy, supporting the mission of the church beyond the giver’s lifetime as the church follows the calling of Christ.” Legacy Partners receive a special lapel pin the church commissioned.

Legacy Partners administrators take promoting legacy giving seriously, regularly developing new materials that allow members to share their individual stories about their love for the church’s ministries. Southeast Zone Vice President Randy Johnson is invited to participate in worship and meet with individuals regularly.

“The leaders of the Cherry Log Christian Church have taken the Foundation’s ‘mentoring model’ to a new level,” says Johnson. “Their passion for growing the church’s legacy fund is obvious. The invitations and the encouragement which they regularly offer, along with the positive response of the church members, is changing the culture of the congregation. I can only imagine the long-term impact on the local and global witness of the Cherry Log church because of their efforts.”

The Foundation’s Board of Directors also cited Cherry Log’s strong commitment to outreach, both locally and around the world. The church operates a clothes closet on its property, giving away clothing to those in need. Members also collect food – and grow food in their community garden plot -- for two different local food pantries, and help during distribution days.

The church operates a caregivers closet ministry, providing medical service equipment to those in the community caring for family members.

Beyond the community, the congregation provides direct support to a children's ministry in Kenya, providing housing and wells to families hosting orphaned children.

Cherry Log Christian Church is the second largest contributor to Disciples Mission Fund in Georgia, and ranks No. 3 in the nation in its participating membership size.

This award is named in honor of retired Foundation President James P. Johnson and recognizes his commitment to funding the witness and ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in all of its manifestations.

The Christian Church Foundation is a general ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) with the mission of undergirding ministry through permanent funds, planned gifts and prudent investment of funds owned by Disciples ministries. It is a donor-directed Foundation designed to benefit Disciples ministries and institutions. At the start of 2017, the Foundation was responsible for \$654.8 million of the church's money.