Moment for Mission #1: UrbanMission (Pomona, CA)

In 2001 the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) embraced a bold vision: to start 1,000 new churches in 1,000 different ways by 2020. And we did it! We started 1,000 new churches... and counting!

Among these new churches is UrbanMission in Pomona, CA. Lead Pastor, Rev. Al Lopez, describes UrbanMission as a church without walls. “We have interconnected and interdependent ministries,” he says, “and we get together to worship.”

UrbanMission provides meals for people from all walks of life through their Open Table gatherings. They work through the Reentry Coalition to help people coming out of jail to reconnect and reintegrate back into society. They also started a nonprofit that connects community partners as they work together to build community in South Pomona.

Today, our congregation joins with congregations across the life of the church to celebrate new churches like UrbanMission. We are coming together to celebrate these 1,000 new churches (and counting!) by offering our financial support to the continued work of the new church movement. By contributing to this special offering, you are a part of the life-changing ministry of new churches here in our region and across the United States & Canada. When you give to the Pentecost Offering, you are making a real difference in people’s lives.
Moment for Mission #2: Downtown Disciples (Des Moines, IA)

If it weren’t for the Pentecost Offering, Downtown Disciples wouldn’t exist.

When the new church started gathering for worship, they knew they were called to meet in the heart of downtown Des Moines, IA. It was a financially challenging call, because downtown space does not come cheap. But, they were able to find (and afford) a place to gather with help from the Upper Midwest Region.

“Without the offering,” Senior Minister Rev. Debbie Griffin says, “Downtown Disciples wouldn’t have been able to have a place to worship that worked for us. [The Pentecost Offering] is where our funds came from in the Region.”

You have an opportunity to participate in the 2020 Pentecost Offering and help churches like Downtown Disciples in our own Region. Half of what we collect today will stay in our Region to support and sustain new churches. The second half helps train, equip, assist and nurture leaders across the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

We have started 1,000 new churches... and counting! And your gift to the Pentecost Offering will help start even more.

Moment for Mission #3: LabOratory Church (Indianapolis, IN)

When the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) set a bold goal to start 1,000 new churches by the year 2020, courageous leaders answered the call. New church planters have given their hearts to reaching the underserved, welcoming new neighbors, and creating communities of love. And we, as a church, have committed to supporting those who have stepped out in faith to start new churches.

One way we celebrate and support these brave leaders is through the Pentecost Offering. This week we will join with churches across the United States and Canada by collecting this special offering. Half of what we give will stay in our Region to help new churches close to home, and the other half will help support new church planters throughout the Church.

Our gifts today will help planters like Pastor Amie Vanderford. She and her husband Thaddeus Shelton recently launched The LabOratory Church in Indianapolis, IN. LabOratory Church offers a safe space for those with mental illness to worship, cultivate strong connections, and become well. Previous gifts to the Pentecost Offering helped send Amie and Thaddeus to Leadership Academy in 2019. At Leadership Academy they met other planters. “Being a church planter can be lonely,” says Amie. “Bouncing ideas off of others going through the same thing was awesome.”

Your gift to the Pentecost Offering will help the new church movement continue. We are celebrating 1,000 new churches... and counting!