**What is the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)?**

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was born in the early 1800s as a dynamic movement for God that spread across the American frontier. Seeking to move beyond denominational division and toward being a New Testament Church, our founders envisioned a united community of faith grounded in the love and grace of Jesus Christ. Today we are over 3,700 congregations strong across the United States, Canada, and around the world. The red Chalice with St. Andrew’s Cross symbolizes our focus on the weekly celebration of Holy Communion and the openness of the Lord’s Table, where all are made welcome and invited to partake.

**First Christian Church of Decatur** was founded on Christmas Day 1921, and has served faithfully ever since with a significant urban ministry, an inclusive theology, and a Kingdom-building vision. We are open and accepting of all of God’s people, and encourage women, men, and young people to follow their call from God to serve, just as Christ first served us.

Here is a brief theology and history lesson about this Body of Christ. First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Decatur, Georgia has a covenantal relationship with sister churches across the city and around the world. While each congregation is independent – no one has the ecclesial authority to direct us what to do, say, believe, or call to serve as pastor– we are connected by a covenant of love. Beginning in the early 1800’s, Christian Churches and Disciples of Christ congregations flourished across the USA and around the world. In 1968, the separate bodies yoked to become the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) with three manifestations: local congregations, regional churches, and a general church to facilitate national and international missions. Ever since we have covenanted to support and encourage fellow Disciples and to practice Christian ministry locally, regionally and globally.

Having said that, there are some theological practices we share in common. We are non-creedal; everyone is invited to love and serve God through Jesus Christ, but how and why you move in that direction is between each soul and God. We practice baptism by immersion at an age of understanding, yet we recognize all forms of baptism and therefore do not require anyone to be re-baptized. The Lord’s Table is open because Christ is the host and the purpose. We celebrate the birth, ministry, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and in the context of worship we offer Holy Communion every Sunday. Everyone has a vocation, and we affirm Christ’s call to children, youth, women and men to serve. We turn to the Holy Scriptures for guidance and direction in our daily living, yet also recognize that the Holy Spirit, in God’s infinite wisdom, continues to lovingly communicate through additional voices and acts of grace. At the intersection of faith and reason we meet the Risen Christ and one another. The call of the Gospel for social justice and the building of community is intricately woven into the very fabric of the worship, study, and prayer life of the church.
Hello!

Are you the Seminary Student whom God is sending to serve at First Christian Church of Decatur and alongside us in the wider community?

We are an open, inclusive, diverse and authentic Body of Christ located only a couple miles from the Emory University campus in downtown Decatur. We are called to be engaged in the lives of our neighbors through the regular Christian practices of mission, hospitality, worship, and more.

Below are three various needs for 2015-16 that we pray a seminarian might be able to address one or more with us. Are you interested in any of these three gaps of church leadership? Are you curious? Called?

- We have a need for someone to help guide and support our children & youth ministry program alongside adult advisers.

- We’ve a need of someone with IT skills to build & then teach us how to maintain website(s) and social media ministry.

- We have a need for someone with marketing and business skills to serve Christ through our all-volunteer store called Chalice Thrift that generates $12,000 a year toward mission.

Sorry to say, we have no stipend to offer. However we do offer significant professional support and energy from a staff and church that loves seminarians (and has ordained 23 servant leaders!), as well as ample opportunities to serve in other arenas that might interest you, including music, worship leadership & a wide range of congregational ministries of grace.

First Christian Church of Decatur
(Disciples of Christ)
601 W. Ponce de Leon Ave. Georgia 30030
Phone: 404-378-3621
Pastor James Brewer-Calvert at citykid4evr@gmail.com
Director of Christian Education Barbara Sims-King at Sims_King@yahoo.com
Website: www.decaturdisciples.org

Resolve to Love, Agree to Differ, Unite to Serve, Break Bread Together