



Christ Presbyterian Church

Memorial Plaques Policy

Approved by the Session June 15, 2017

Christ Presbyterian Church has a rich history of its members investing their lives and resources into God's ministry here in Springfield. There is a rich legacy in this place and it all starts with the commitment to glorify God and to adhere to the authority of scripture. The current members stand on the shoulders of the saints that spiritually and literally built this congregation. We recognize that any church would not survive unless the body, its members, sacrifice itself. We are extremely grateful to be part of this rich legacy.

1 Corinthians 12:4–11 (ESV) *⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.*

The body of Christ is all the members of the congregation. No gift or service is more honorable or more important than another. It takes us all. In fact, the only thing the above scripture highlights is the Holy Spirit that enables and empowers us all to serve in any matter. The only thing that we are to honor and remember (memorialize) is not what any of us do, but what God has done, is doing, and will do for us. It is not us that does anything but God in us that accomplishes His work.

Hebrews 12:1–2 (ESV) *¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

CPC has been surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses from generation to generation that have served in this church. However, we should not look and remember what they have done, rather, we are told to keep our eyes on Jesus, the one who is perfecting us. Our remembrance is not on what we or others have done, but what he has done through all of us.

There is a time and place to remember and honor our loved ones. However it is not appropriate for us as a congregation to set up any memorials to any individuals other than God in our place of corporate worship. It allows us to lose our focus on the founder and perfecter of our faith. Our congregation is a memorial (a remembrance) of what God has done and is doing in our lives and the lives of the people of Springfield. Elsewhere in scripture any memorial that God tells his people to establish is done in remembrance of what He has done, not what any of his servants have done. The only memorial that any of us should want to be remembered in is in the Lord's Book of Life.

It is with that truth and legacy in mind that the Session decided to remove all memorial plaques from the building. We are not forgetting those that contributed and laid the foundation of this congregation, but we are honoring their legacy by adhering to scripture and honoring God alone and not highlighting contributions from a few members. We will attempt to give the current plaques to anyone that has a strong tie or relation to the names on them.

We still honor and remember each member as part of the Body of Christ corporately as we keep permanent records of this congregation. Those that have served thanklessly as part of this congregation shall not be forgotten by us, but more importantly will not be forgotten by God.

The Session is incredibly grateful for the faithfulness and perseverance of those that came before us and this is our attempt to honor their faithfulness by putting God first and honoring his Word. Faithfulness to the legacy of God-honoring worship and adherence to the authority of His Word is a daily and generational task by all at CPC.