

DHF Releases Two New Booklets

Disciple Heritage Fellowship has added two new booklets to its resource list. Both are by DHF Executive Director Doug Harvey. Harvey explained that DHF has been getting an unusually large number of calls from churches that want to leave the Disciples of Christ denomination. “There are some basic questions that we are asked again and again. To help churches in the decision-making process, we have begun to produce a series of booklets that address those questions.”

“Why We Left” is a reprint of four articles from the most recent “DHF Update.” Each article explains the decision of a congregation to leave the Disciples of Christ denomination. The booklet helps people understand why these churches recently choose to leave the denomination and the results of those decisions.

“Why Not Stay?” addresses the frequently asked question, “If we don’t agree with the direction of the denomination, why not stay and work for change from within?” This question nearly always arises when a congregation begins to discuss their denominational affiliation. Harvey assesses internal and external decisions of the DoC that make it nearly impossible for the denomination to make substantial changes. He then outlines the course of most renewal movements, and recounts the experiences of three groups that have tried to bring evangelical renewal to the Disciples denomination since 1968. His reluctant conclusion is that while God may call some churches to maintain an evangelical witness within the denomination, those who hope to bring about genuine change are not being realistic.

These booklets join with an earlier one, “In or Out?,” subtitled “Advice For Churches Considering Withdrawal From the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Denomination.” This booklet outlines a process for churches to follow when the question of denominational affiliation arises. It suggests issues that need to be examined and decisions that need to be made when a church engages in this discussion. It does not try to persuade the church to leave, but simply tries to help establish a process for working through the issues.

At least one more booklet will be added to the series in coming months. This one will briefly outline and document the decisions made by the Disciples of Christ denomination that have caused many evangelicals to question their continuing relationship with that denomination.

All the current booklets are available from the DHF office, with a suggested donation of \$5.00 apiece.