



William Reist, Senior Pastor

College First Church of God
Findlay, Ohio

"To join God in transforming the world through the Good News of Jesus" is the vision of the College First Church of God in Findlay, Ohio. Senior Pastor William Reist says, "We are looking for places where God is already working and may be inviting us to join him."

PERSONAL BIO:

After graduating Magna cum Laude in 1973 with a B.A. in Religion and Philosophy from the University of Findlay in Ohio, he took his first Interim position in 1974. Pastor Reist was ordained and graduated Summa cum Laude with his Master of Divinity degree from Winebrenner Theological Seminary in June of 1976. From that point he pastored 4 other churches throughout Ohio and Pennsylvania. In 1987 he became the Administrator of Churches of God, General Conference, and in 1992 held the position of Director of Field Education and Director of Admissions at Winebrenner. In April of 2002 he became the Senior Pastor of the College First Church of God in Findlay, Ohio.

William is a Member of several Boards in the Findlay, Ohio area and also serves as Chairman of CGGC Board of Pensions.

Pastor Reist was married to Judy Reist on May 19, 1978 and they have two sons, Jonathan Reist, and Benjamin (Laura) Reist.

CHURCH FOCUS:

College First has been working on a strategic plan and updated our Vision, Mission and Values. Our vision is "To join God in transforming the world through the Good News of Jesus." We are looking for places where God is already working and may be inviting us to join him.

Some of those places include 1) a commitment to a local K-2 elementary school where we have two dozen mentors tutor youngsters in a reading program, provide money for the school to buy supplies for each of the 300 students, and provide volunteer support for the year-end school picnic and activities as invited. In addition during the past year, we have undertaken two rather large painting projects for the school.

In the April newsletter of the Great Lakes Conference, this article was printed: *"College First youth raised \$15,500 for hunger relief that supported World Vision and CGGC Children of Promise. Paper chains were made and displayed through Fellowship Hall to represent each dollar amount raised. The church also raised \$11,000 for Haiti relief. During the month of March, volunteers painted the gymnasium and fifty one interior doors at the Jacob's Primary School in Findlay as a continuation of its partnership in service to the school."*

2) Two years ago we had a number of persons join the Bill Glass Weekend of Champions prison ministry by sharing the gospel with inmates in NW Ohio prisons. We will have a group of volunteers participating in another Findlay are Weekend of Champions in May.

3) Our mission task force has set several goals to have at least 100 College First members/friends participate in a short term mission trip by 2013; provide increased visibility to the congregation about cross cultural ministries through power point slides before or during the service; increase the number of financial "shares" for Cross Cultural Missions; and provide 25% of our income to outreach.

In addition we are working on ways to strengthen people's walk with Christ. We are in the early stages of conversation about changing the way we measure ministry, and specifically helping people develop a personal spiritual development covenant. Our conversation is aided by the work Reggie McNeal is doing in *Missional Renaissance* and the CGGC *Missional Leadership Initiative*.