



## The Office of the General Minister and President

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada

*Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' ~Matthew 25:37-40*

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the U.S. and Canada celebrates Rev. John McCullough and his 20-year legacy of prophetic leadership with Church World Service. Our wider church is much stronger in its global presence because of John's faithful service as the longest tenured CEO in CWS history.

John's outstanding contributions include significant advocacy work on behalf of the most vulnerable in our society. He has raised awareness of growing international needs, alongside the shrinking world of resources, highlighting the importance of collaborations between church bodies and other partners. From John, we've learned that we are stronger and more effective when we work and serve together.

Under John's leadership, Church World Service remains a leader in refugee advocacy-- especially refugee resettlement-- in a time of diminished U.S. commitment. Because of him, many of our faith communities continue to expand the welcome of refugees to our communities, and to our table. That work is more important than ever, with the worldwide number of refugees and displaced people at the highest in our history. As the world also witnesses a growing number of climate refugees, John's leadership around migration and climate change has helped us to understand the important role of faith communities in creation care.

Our ecumenical witness has also expanded in the area of food security. In Africa, where hunger and poverty were on the rise, John led CWS in addressing growing, critical needs. Now, because of John's vision and work with partners in remote areas historically neglected by other agencies, we can better answer the call to feed our neighbors. The CWS Africa Initiative also focused on AIDS and HIV prevention at a critical time, and helped communities overcome stigma, making it easier for those who were infected to seek support and treatment.

With John's direction, CWS has played a critical role in women's empowerment. The role of women in leadership was a condition for CWS support of development projects in Africa, ensuring that women's voices are now included in leadership across the continent. Other CWS programs across Africa have enabled children--particularly young girls-- to access early education, transforming many communities for the better.

For two decades, John has represented the 37 member communions with a strong voice for justice, for the oppressed, and for the hungry. We celebrate the strong vision, leadership, and gifts of the Spirit that have led John in this life changing ministry and give thanks for the transformative presence of CWS still at work in the world. Together with CWS, we remain committed to being the presence of God's limitless love for all creation.

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