

## **Moment for Mission**

Many of us are aware today's skyrocketing costs of higher education. In recent years, student debt has surpassed credit card debt in terms of total debt owed by Americans. Our Disciples colleges and universities, and our theological institutions continue to work at providing quality education, keeping costs down, and providing funding to assist Disciples students and others.

As Disciples, we recognize how important higher education is. Since our founding, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has been committed to higher education. Today, over 50,000 students attend our fourteen Disciples related colleges and universities or seven seminaries and divinity houses. And in the past twelve months, over 12,000 students have graduated from these fine schools.

Alexander Campbell, founder of Bethany College, believed that "churches and colleges go hand in hand in the progress of Christian civilization." When looking at our world today, the social, political and religious contexts have changed since Campbell wrote those words. However, even in these changed contexts, the work of educating and forming students intellectually, emotionally, spiritually and physically continues. We continue to do our part as a church.

Our gifts to the Thanksgiving offering help support the work of our institutions of higher learning in many ways: financially supporting Disciples related schools, providing undergraduate scholarships and support for spiritual life offices, and providing scholarships and support for those pursuing theological education.

The world in which we live continues to change. Our commitment to the importance of both communities of faith and of higher education, present from our founding, continues. May we please give generously to support this important work.