



NEWS RELEASE

For more information, contact Marie A. Casey at Casey Communications, Inc., 314-721-2828.

Orvin T. Kimbrough Promoted to Chairman of Midwest BankCentre

ST. LOUIS (Jan. 28, 2020) – **Orvin T. Kimbrough**, who joined **Midwest BankCentre** as CEO in January 2019, has been elected chairman by the Midwest BankCentre board of directors.

He succeeds **James A. “Jim” Watson**, who continues as vice chairman of the board of Midwest BankCentre and the bank’s holding company, **Midwest BankCentre, Inc. Philip Stupp** remains chairman of Midwest BankCentre, Inc. Midwest BankCentre is St. Louis’ second largest locally owned community bank.



“Orv’s passion for empowering people, enabling businesses and energizing neighborhoods has taken root at Midwest BankCentre,” Watson said. “Under his leadership, the bank has become even more customer-centric by organizing culturally and structurally around customers, enhancing digital processes to speed loan applications and service, and building momentum in our mortgage, treasury management and wealth management services for all asset profiles.”

“I am excited to continue leading an exceptionally creative, disciplined and diverse team,” Kimbrough said. “In 2019, we achieved record loan volumes, launched new retail products, sustained strong credit quality and strengthened our collaborations. We will build upon the dynamic foundation nurtured under Jim Watson’s leadership by attracting more customers who want to bank their values, and by investing profitably in our whole community to give the greatest number of people the best shot at living their dreams.”

Kimbrough, 45, became CEO of Midwest BankCentre in January 2019 after leading entrepreneurial, community-focused nonprofit organizations for nearly 20 years. As president

and CEO of United Way of Greater St. Louis from 2013-2019, it grew into the nation's largest affiliate, raising nearly \$80 million annually.

His promotion sustains the bank's long tradition of carefully planned leadership transitions since its founding in 1906. Watson recruited Kimbrough to the Midwest BankCentre board in 2015, and led efforts to attract Kimbrough as CEO of Midwest BankCentre. Kimbrough will continue to serve as bank CEO.



Watson has devoted half of his 40-plus years in banking to serving middle-market businesses, institutions and nonprofits at Midwest BankCentre. He also has been deeply involved in many social service agencies and arts organizations as a director and board chair.

During Watson's five years as bank chairman, Midwest BankCentre nearly doubled its assets to more than \$2 billion, completed two bank acquisitions, launched its digital bank and generated a 45% increase in earnings per share. He remains involved in several local nonprofits, including the board and executive committee of The Sheldon. He also serves on the board of directors of Ben Hur Construction Co., another business controlled by Stupp Bros., Inc.

Midwest BankCentre, a mainstay of St. Louis community banking since 1906, employs a staff of about 280 working at 17 bank locations in the City of St. Louis and St. Louis, Jefferson and St. Charles counties. The bank works to empower people, enable business and energize neighborhoods through the strength of its financial services, including personalized consumer and business banking, business cash management, mortgage lending, home equity loans, financial planning and investments, insurance and digital banking. It ranks among St. Louis' largest locally owned banks with assets exceeding \$1.9 billion and deposits of \$1.4 billion.

The bank is a local leader in the St. Louis Regional Financial Empowerment Coalition (formerly the St. Louis Regional Unbanked Task Force) and its Bank-On Save-Up St. Louis initiative. Since 2001, Midwest BankCentre has consecutively achieved the Bauer Financial 5-Star Superior financial rating each quarter. For its success in bringing mainstream financial services to unbanked and underbanked citizens in the region and other diversity and inclusion contributions, it recently won the 2019 Community Commitment Award from the American

Bankers Association Foundation. It was also the national winner of the 2018 National Community Bank Service Awards by the Independent Community Bankers of America®.

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Editor's note: Orvin T. Kimbrough is based at the Midwest BankCentre branch in Chesterfield, Mo. (63017). He lives in Wildwood, Mo. (63005). He graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia with both bachelor's and master's degrees in social work, and earned his master's degree in business administration at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He graduated from Aquinas Institute of Theology with a master of arts in theology. Kimbrough is an adjunct instructor at Washington University in St. Louis, teaching effective team leadership. He serves on the board of Mid-America Transplant, Washington University's Olin Business School-Bauer Leadership Center, the St. Louis Club, The Crossing Church and the St. Louis Regional Economic Development Alliance.

Jim Watson resides in Creve Coeur, Mo. (63141).