**Mission Statement of the Regional Church**

Our mission is

- To nurture members and congregations
- To establish and receive new congregations

While working together with the whole Church to do Christ’s ministry in the world.

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**On the Way with Doug and Cathy**

- Nov. 20  Eugene FCC, Worship  Cathy
- Nov. 23  Springfield, Worship and Meeting  Doug
- Nov. 19  Hillsboro, Peniel Worship  Doug
- Nov. 16  Lebanon Committee Meeting  Doug
- Nov. 16  Eugene Area Ministers’ Lunch  Cathy/Doug
- Nov. 16  Albany Committee Meeting  Cathy
- Nov. 15  Mission Council Webinar  Cathy
- Nov. 13  Chuukese Fellowship Church of Christ Salem  Doug
- Nov. 13  Pacific Island Family Church Portland  Doug
- Nov. 13  Keizer, Committee Meeting  Cathy
- Nov. 13  Silverton, Leading Discussion on Cuba  Cathy
- Nov. 12-13  Chuukese Leaders w/ NAPAD Pastor Kim  Doug
- Nov. 10-12  National Benevolent Association Board  Cathy
- Nov. 10  Columbia Gorge District Clergy  Cathy
- Nov. 10  Bishops and Execls Lunch EMO  Doug
- Nov. 9  Comm. on Ministry, Trees of Righteousness  Doug
- Nov. 7  Medford, Committee Meeting  Cathy
- Nov. 7  Peniel Portland; Garcia service  Doug
- Nov. 6  Albany Committee Meeting  Cathy
- Nov. 6  Portland FCC, Principe de Paz  Doug
- Nov. 5  Regional Board Meeting  Cathy/Doug
- Oct. 30  Meridian, New Hope  Cathy/Doug

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**Save these dates!**

- December 11 & 18, 2016  Christmas Offering
- February 4, 2017  Regional Board
- February 11, 2017  Pray and Play for Women
- February 18-19, 2017  Middle School Retreat

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**News from our Congregations**

- **Springfield FCC:** preparing for building expansion.
- **St. Johns:** Three people on regional team for Anti Racism/Pro Reconciliation.
- **Lebanon:** Hosting local boy scout troop.
- **Red Rock:** 50 Days of Prayer
  - With members meeting five times in groups of three.
- **John Day:** Community Thanksgiving service will be available via Internet.
- **Midway:** Thank you for the hosting of ministers’ training on Nov. 4.
- **Lynchwood:** Thank you for hosting meeting with NAPAD Pastor Chung Seong Kim.

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**La Grande:** annual bazaar
- Dec. 15-18, displaying Neil Allen’s extensive Nativity set collections.

**Ione:** Monthly community lunch for seniors.

**Junction City:** annual holiday Bazaar.

**Murray Hills:** Ecumenical worship service, Election Eve.

**Pendleton:** Marionette show for Christmas Sunday.

**The View:** Study of 3 John.

**Albany:** Farewell send off for Interim Minister Eric Dale.

**Corvallis:** AA group installed new wood Pergo floor in FCC meeting room.

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**December 2016**

- **Anti Racism Training/Events**
- **FEDICE Romerillos Project**
- **Calendar of Regional News from Congregations**

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**From your Regional Church Staff**

**Audre Bratcher**

**Liz Cronin**

**Cathy Myers Wirt**

**Douglas A. Wirt**
“In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.”

Luke 2:8

Have you ever noticed how the Christmas story speaks to the “urban/rural divide?” An angel came to some shepherds in a remote field and told them about a child born in the city of David. Some estimates place the population of Bethlehem between 300-1,000 people at the time of Jesus’ birth. Today, that would be somewhere between the population of Ione, Oregon and say, Homedale, Idaho or John Day, Oregon. Cities grow much larger now, but if you’ve been out in the country with your sheep far from any people for days or weeks, a few hundred could seem like a huge throng.

At Jesus’ birth, part of the revelatory message came to people out in the fields, and part of it was in town, though not in a very fancy place. The shepherds spied into Bethlehem, found the baby Jesus, and told Mary and Joseph about the angel they’d seen and heard in the fields. Luke 2:15 says that the angel didn’t make the trip with them, but v. 17 –20 suggests that the angel wasn’t really needed because the shepherds became such glorious messengers themselves.

It’s not easy to get people moving from their comfortable turf to receive insights from strangers. So much of what we love in the Christmas story can stretch us more than we want in real life. Disciples in the Oregon-SW Idaho region know about Mexico and Micronesia, about Missouri and Montana, McMinnville and Meridian, Mountain Home and Medford. And those are just some of the “M’s!” The point is that God’s messengers of hope appear in many places and perspectives. May we in the Oregon-SW Idaho region be more open to unexpected opportunities.

Before the November 4 session, a group of nine lay leaders and ministers in the region met on November 12 at Midway Christian Church in Portland. They came for the first in a series of Anti Racism Pro Reconciliation training events for ministers and other church leaders.

The deacons will now receive the Christmas offering on December 11 and 18.

Antiracism pro reconciliation update

About 60 Oregon-SW Idaho Disciples joined together on November 4 at Midway Christian Church in Portland. They came for the first in a series of Anti-Racism Pro-Reconciliation training events for ministers and other church leaders.

Before the November 4 session, a group of nine lay leaders and ministers in the region met on six different days to learn about leading Antiracism Pro Reconciliation events. Sandhya Jha of Oakland, CA and Nathan Hill of Maryland trained our new trainers, with both in person and video conference sessions. The point is to learn more about the destructive and dangerous effects of racism in society and the church, and to see the creative and faithful ways that Christian people can help to shape a better world.

Two more similar events will be available in 2017 for ministers and other church leaders. One will be in Idaho and one in Oregon. These trainings are made possible in part by the annual Reconciliation offerings given by Disciples in the fall. Our thanks go to our guest trainers and to those who gave so generously of their time to be trainers for local events in the future. Congregations may arrange for local trainings in the new year.

In 2015, the Regional Board set a goal of $17,500 for our latest microloan project with our mission partner FEDICE in Ecuador. In 2016, Oregon-SW Idaho Disciples gave and raised just over half of those funds. Between now and the end of 2017, we hope to raise another $8,500 to complete the project. This project provides start up funds for families who want to raise their own animals or raise onions for a source of income in the small community of Romerillos. This new project emerged from a crisis, when volcanic ash covered Romerillos after a recent eruption. While the ash could have ended the project, the community actually came together with FEDICE, saved their animals and crops, and then they found 29 more families to start a new microloan project! Your gifts for this FEDICE project in Ecuador may go to the regional church office marked “Romerillos.”

Women’s Pray and Play Days 2017

In 2016 over 190 women came to one of the six Pray and Play events around our regional church.

In 2017 you have an opportunity to come to one of four events. The materials for registration are on line in the women’s area of our website www.oidisciples.org.

In the early part of next year, you will also be able to register for the events online.

This year’s theme: “Use What Ya Got!” will help us to examine how we use what we have already to make a witness for faith in our own places where we live and with partners around the globe.

Thank you to Allison Park in Eugene, Keizer, Parkview in Meridian and Pendleton for making a place for these events. Stay tuned for more details!