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.

Our mission is:
- To establish and receive new congregations
- To expand Disciples presence in the world
- To prevent and alleviate poverty, hunger, and injustice

Doug and Cathy Myers Wirt
Regional Ministers
Audre Bratcher,
Administrative Assistant

News from our Congregations

Springfield / Glenwood:
Worshipping jointly while construction goes forward at Springfield FCC.

Northwood:
Outreach Sunday on Feb. 4, with focus on Disciples Mission Fund, Week of Compassion, and many more of the ministries supported by percentage giving from regular income receipts.

Pacific Islands Family Church:
Hosting national Easter Rally in Portland for last year’s Pacific Islands Family Church Worship.

Ontario:
Hosting 2018 Kids Camp.

Keizer/Escudo y Fortaleza/
Dallas / Salem FCC:
Shared a Christmas float in the Salem holiday parade.

Río de Dios:
Valentine dinner celebration coming soon.

Albany:
Highlighted in recent local newspaper article about tiny houses movement.

Peniel:
Returned from annual Christmas trip to Nogales for Mision Sonora.

Parkville:
Elders’ held a Retreat, January 13.

Eugenio First:
Planning a spring break “Blue Theology” trip to Monterrey, CA

On the Way with Doug and Cathy

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<td>WWOw Women’s Event Planning Team</td>
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<td>Salem, Santiam District Pastors’ Breakfast</td>
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<td>Commission on Ministry</td>
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<td>Boise, Red Rock, Pastoral Installation</td>
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<td>Meridian, Parkview, Worship</td>
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<td>Jan. 17</td>
<td>Regional Nominating Committee</td>
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<td>Murray Hills, By-Laws Committee</td>
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<td>Jan. 11</td>
<td>Columbia Grove Ministers Meeting</td>
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<td>Jan. 7</td>
<td>Pacific Islands Family Church Worship</td>
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<td>Jan. 7</td>
<td>Salem First, Worship</td>
<td>Cathy</td>
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Save these dates!

February 3
Regional Board Portland

February 17
Pray & Play, Glenwood

March 3
Pray & Play, Medford

March 10
Pray & Play, Red Rock Boise

March 17
Pray & Play, La Grande

March 24
Pray & Play, Salem

April 6-8
WWOW Gathering for Disciple women in Arizona

May 18-19
Regional Assembly, Portland

Week of Compassion

For 80 years Disciples of Christ congregations throughout North America have received an annual Week of Compassion Ministry offering. In 2017 WOC responded to 87 North American appeals for assistance (20 of them in Texas after the recent flooding), and 49 responses were made outside of North America. You can read the entire list of responses on www.weekofcompassion.org.

New 2018 videos and resources are posted, including stories, meditations, bulletin inserts and more. Soon trips will be organized for Disciples to go to areas impacted this past year by flooding to do some rehabilitation work. Already a group from Northwood Christian Church in Springfield has been to Texas to work in one of the congregations affected by the rains.

In 2018 Regional Minister Cathy Myers Wirt begins a term of service on the WOC Committee that sets policy and makes grants that involve our 19 partner agencies as we respond to natural disasters and the needs of refugees. Please give generously.

Disciples Certificate of Ministry taught in Spanish

In January 20 people from 5 of our 6 Spanish speaking congregations met in Portland with Xose Escamilla and Jon Berquist about a Ministry Certificate Program through Disciples Seminary Foundation. High interest was expressed in participating in this training. Stay tuned as details develop.
On our attendance. Pastors of the Columbia Gorge District are planning worship. Hands. We are now half way through the three year future story period. Here are some of the ways your regional church is transitioning forward. You can find more on our website.

- Hired two new part time staff positions: a Communications Associate and a Leadership Development Associate.
- Launched a one year pilot program for Regional Elders (see more about this soon).
- Over two months and four sessions, trained a team of 10 Anti-Racism Trainers who led three training events reaching a majority of our pastors, with over 100 total participants.
- Our five districts created networks and events with one another as diverse as Facebook pages, Christmas parade floats, youth gatherings and meetings with Lori Tapi. Began on-line registration and on-line giving as well as a twice monthly on-line news service. We now hold many meetings using Zoom technology and have networking groups meeting regularly on-line for youth programming and sermon preparation.
- Held the first of many webinars in January. The first one was on being Global Mission Congregations and drew participants from 8 congregations and Tom Morse of Global Ministries as a resource person.

Continuing in hope, Cathy

On-line Regional News Service Up and Running

You are reading the regional church newsletter right now! But did you know there are other ways to get your regional news without waiting 4-5 weeks for the next newsletter?

- We have a regional on-line news service called “Common Current”. You can sign up for Common Current by going to: http://www.oidisciples.org/news-c1h8s and clicking the Common Current Sign up link. This service is managed by Rev. Stacy Shelton of Medford.

While you are on the website, explore and learn more about your regional church. The website is updated 1-2 times per week. On the homepage you can see pictures of your regional church in action.

You can also check out our Facebook Page for 2-3 stories per week: www.facebook.com/CCOSWI/?ref=bookmarks.

Regional Assembly Registration opens in February

Rev. Dr. Timothy James of the National Convocation, Rev. Sandhya Jha of the Oakland Peace Center and Blanca Puma of FEDICE Ecuador will all be our guests for the May 18 Regional Assembly hosted by Portland First Christian Church. Registration and information will be launched in February on line and by mailing to leaders.

- For now save the dates as we gather under the theme: “Through These Hands.” Vice Moderator of our region, Brenda Mikota, and her team are at work preparing for our attendance. Pastors of the Columbia Gorge District are planning worship.

Women from the 7 western regional churches plan to gather April 6-8 in Scottsdale, Arizona. Information about the event can be found by going to www.oidisciples.org and following the link to women’s retreats 2018. Caribbean guests, carry bags made by global sisters, wonderful speakers and inspiring worship will make this a weekend you will not want to miss. Mary Jacobs from Portland First Christian is planning the worship times. If you cannot go, help send someone from your congregation.

Leadership Development Associate, Bernice Rivera

In keeping with the three year vision plan, the Oregon SW Idaho region has hired a part-time Leadership Development Associate. Bernice Rivera, member at Murray Hills Christian Church, has started in this position at an average of one day per week. She will visit new churches and Spanish speaking congregations. She has attended the Hispanic Ministries Institute at Lexington Theological Seminary and is a trainer in our Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation ministry. Bernice also serves on the New Church Team and the General Board of the Disciples of Christ.

Children Worship and Wonder Training May 2018

CW&W is a worship process for young children. Several of our regional churches have participated in CW&W for more than 15 years. The CW&W training assists the storyteller leaders to engage children in the stories of the Bible and integrate the stories into worshipful play and learning.

Murray Hills Christian Church is hosting a training the 2 days preceding Regional Assembly in May so that people can come to both events in one trip if they desire. Watch our website and newsletters for details and registration information.

Pray and Play Women’s Events

The 2018 theme for our women’s 3 hour mini-retreats is Do the Math! The math we will pray and play about includes these equations:

- Love X Blessing = Hope
- Life—Hate = Grace
- Stuff ÷ People = Justice
- God + You = Abundance

Events are scheduled for: February 17, Glenwood March 3, Medford March 10 Boise Red Rock March 17, LaGrande March 24, Salem

Registration forms may be downloaded from our website or you can register on line by going to http://www.oidisciples.org/pray-and-play-days. Cost for the day is $15.00 and includes the full program and a gift for each participant. Call our office with questions: 503.226.7648.