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.

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

News from our Congregations

Portsmouth Union: Time of renewal leave for Pastor Andy Goebel in February.
Nueva Vida: Celebrating ten years in ministry!
Ione: Interim Minister Rick Jensen completed his service at end of February.
Lynchwood: Our National Hispanic Disciples Pastor Lori Tapia visited Feb. 25.
John Day: Exploring new outreach ministry in a rural community that has no active congregation.
Red Rock: Ice Cream Social camp fundraiser.
Lebanon: Pastors David and Shari Eggleston completing their transitional ministry roles.
Zane Ridings continues as solo pastor.
Silverton: Established Legacy Fund with Christian Church Foundation.
Murray Hills: Review and revision of church bylaws.
Grants Pass: Church Talent Show and Potluck in March.
LaGrande: Made 170 Easter Egg bags for kids that receive food Backpacks.
Salem: Began a 13 week group on grief.

On the Way with Doug and Cathy

April 5-8 Scottsdale, AZ, Interregional Women’s Event Cathy
April 4 Portland, New Church Committee Doug
April 3 Future Story Implementation Team Cathy
April 2 Portland, Clergywomen Group Cathy
Mar. 30-Apr. 1 Portland, Chukunke Disciples Easter Rally Doug
Mar. 27 Salem, Santiam District Pastor’s Breakfast Cathy
Mar. 25 Salem, Escudo y Fortaleza, Worship Doug
Mar. 25 Salem First, Worship Doug
Mar. 24 Salem, Pray and Play event for Women Cathy
Mar. 22 Eugene are Ministers’ Lunch Cathy
Mar. 21 Commission on Ministry Doug
Mar. 19 Pendleton, Blue Mountain Ministers Lunch Cathy
Mar. 18 LaGrande Worship Cathy
Mar. 17 LaGrande, Pray and Play for Women Cathy
Mar. 15 Regional Elders Orientation Cathy
Mar. 13 Oregon Disciple Foundation Board Doug
Mar. 11 Ontario, Worship, Elders Lunch Cathy
Mar. 10 Boise, Red Rock, Pray and Play for Women Cathy
Mar. 8 Interchurch Center Board Doug
Mar. 8 Bishops and Executives Lunch Doug

Save these dates!

April 6-8 WWOOW Gathering for Disciple women in Scottsdale, Arizona
May 18-19 Regional Assembly, Portland
June 2 Regional Board Meeting, Portland
September 7-9 Snake River District Women’s Retreat, Cascade, Idaho
October 12-13 Western Districts’ Women’s Retreat, Beaverton

Regional Assembly May 18-19

First Christian Church, Portland is preparing to host the 2018 Regional Assembly under the theme, “Through These Hands.”

Our Speakers include, Friday evening, Rev. Dr. Timothy James, Associate General Minister and Administrative Secretary for the National Convocation of Churches; Saturday Ms. Blanca Puma, Executive Director of FEDICE Ecuador; our Regional Ministers, Rev. Dr. Doug Wirt and Rev. Dr. Cathy Myers Wirt; and Rev. Sandhya Jha, Director of the Oakland Peace Center and Anti-Racism Trainer.

Columbia River District congregational pastors are planning our worship with local musicians highlighted. There are still some reduced price downtown Portland hotel rooms. Please contact the University Place Hotel and Conference center at 503-221-0140. Nursery care, a children’s program, and a set of youth and young adult events are planned.

Details about these programs as well as listings of workshops to be held on Saturday and Displays that will be available all weekend will be posted. Watch the website as new items will continue to be added. A free trade artists sale will be available through out, and lunch is provided on site on Saturday. Registration materials have been sent to congregations and can also be downloaded from the website. On line registration is available at this same web page. For information, go to: http://www.oidisciples.org/regional-assembly-2018

Save these dates!
Local congregations often work with Disciples regional ministry in their times of transition. We have an essential but normally unseen agreement—churches not in transition help those who are. This happens through giving to Disciples Mission Fund and the Christmas offering. There is also a third way, that I’ll mention down the page a bit.

First, a word about transitions. Changing of pastors is the most obvious. In the past year or so, Cathy and I have worked with pastoral changes at Albany, Grants Pass, Keizer, Red Rock, Parkview, Glenwood, Portland FCC, Ione, Rio de Dios, Lebanon and Medford. The regional church never asked any of these churches to pay a fee for service. Costs for staffing, travel, search and call data base, postage, copying etc. all came from the regional operating budget, supported by voluntary gifts to Disciples Mission Fund, the Christmas offering and other sources. Congregations have other kinds of transitions too. One is in getting started as a new church. Another is in finishing well when the time comes to end a ministry. In between, there are other changes that come with mission planning, conflicts, relocations and more.

Congregations help each other through their support and participation with regional ministries. In 2017, one of the largest financial contributions in the region came from a church that closed its visible ministry over ten years ago. This ministry still has an impact because of decisions they made as the church closed. This is a third way our churches can help each other. Your regional board has approved a process for working with small churches that have limited funds and leadership. Larger churches can also plan now to protect and to preserve their assets should the church one day close. Let me know if you’d like to talk more about that.

Doug

Children Worship and Wonder Training May 17-18 Murray Hills

Several of our congregations use the Children Worship and Wonder model of worship time with preschool children. The worship style involves adult leaders as “shepherds” and “storytellers.” Plan to access the training in May if your congregation is involved in CWW and needs to train more storytellers or if your congregation is interested in exploring launching a worship and wonder program. Cost is $120 before May 3 and higher after that date. You can find information on our web site or by calling our office for more details.

Whole Church Visitors in 2018

We give thanks for the blessings of two general church ministers coming to the region to visit with new churches early in 2018. Lori Tapia, Interim Executive Pastor for the Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries, will visit Feb. 23-25 for a youth event and to preach at La Viña in Troutdale. Then on April 4-5, Terrell McTyer of Hope Partnership will visit with the regional New Church Ministries Team and with individual new church leaders. Your giving to Disciples Mission Fund and the Pentecost offering supports new church establishment in the region and beyond.

Easter Offering 2018

The grace of God is overflowing in the gift we have in Jesus the Christ. God walked among us in the person of Jesus and God continues to give us treasures unbound through the Holy Spirit. Our response to this great generosity of God is overflowing compassion, joy, faith, gratitude, and love.

Supporting the General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), by giving to the Easter Offering, is one of the many ways you share your response to God’s generosity. The work of these ministries overflows “from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.” Your gift to the Easter Offering helps bring life, love and learning through the general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Ministries that receive funding from the Easter Offering include:

Center for Faith and Giving
Communication Ministries
Disciples Church Extension Fund
Disciples of Christ Historical Society
Division of Overseas Ministries/Global Ministries
Higher Education and Leadership Ministries
National Benevolent Association
North American Pacific/Asian Disciples

Church Camp Materials Posted on Website

Church camp dates and poster are now on our website at http://www.oidisciples.org/blank-c12dp

Our theme this year is: God’s Love is EVERYWHERE!
Registration materials and publicity brochure will be on line in a couple of weeks.

Pray and Play Events 2018

Thank you to Springfield First Christian, Glendale Christian, Medford First Christian, Boise Red Rock, LaGrande First Christian and Salem First Christian for hosting the 2018 Pray and Play events for women this year. Women spent three hours together playing games involving math, sharing stories of their faith, and learning ways to pray under the theme “Do the Math.” 161 women participated in our pray and play events this year. The program encouraged creative expressions of faith through play and in prayer. Women came from 27 congregations and gave a combined offering of $888.50 to Week of Compassion, $888.50 to Reconciliation Ministry.

In addition, the women gave $284 in change to the Blessing Box offerings divided between Disciples Mission Fund and Disciples Women's Ministries.

Besides all of that, they purchased handicrafts from Mozambique and books for themselves and over 135 books to go to Lynch School Children in SE Portland.