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

On the Way with Doug and Cathy

- Mar. 24 Portland First, Maundy Thursday Service Doug
- Mar. 23 Portland, Commission on Ministry Doug
- Mar. 20 Albany, Ordination Committee Meeting Doug
- Mar. 20 Corvallis, Worship Doug
- Mar. 20 Ione, Worship and Committee Meeting Cathy
- Mar. 19 Lynchwood, Portland Disciples Men Doug
- Mar. 19 LaGrande, Women’s Pray and Play Cathy
- Mar. 16 Eugene, Ministers Lunch Cathy
- Mar. 13 Keizer, Preaching Cathy
- Mar. 13 Homedale, Preaching Doug
- Mar. 12 Boise, Clergy Boundary Training, Leading Doug
- Mar. 11 Ecumenical Ministries Committee Doug
- Mar. 10 New Church Team Doug
- Mar. 10 Columbia Gorge District Clergy Cathy
- Mar. 6 Keizer Christian, Doug Preaching Doug/Cathy
- Mar. 5 Albany, Visioning Event Cathy
- Mar. 5 Portland, Clergy Boundary Training Leading Doug
- Mar. 4 Keizer Christian Council Meeting Cathy
- Mar. 1 Portland, Oregon Disciples Foundation Bd. Doug
- Feb. 28 Eugene, Glenwood, Meeting Doug
- Feb. 27-28 Salem, Middle School Youth Retreat Cathy/Doug

Save these dates!

- April 2 Medford
  Women’s Pray and Play Day Doug
- April 9 Hood River
  Women’s Pray and Play Day Doug
- April 16 Mountain Home
  Women’s Pray and Play Day Doug
- May 20-21 Springfield
  Regional Assembly Doug
- June 4 Portland
  Regional Board Meeting Doug
- June 9-20 Ecuador
  Global Mission Trip Doug
- August 19-21 Cascade
  Women’s Retreat Doug
- September 16, 17, 18, 24, 25
  Mission First Events Doug
- October 14-15 Beaverton
  Women’s Retreat Doug

Regional Assembly May 20-21
Northwest Christian Springfield

Registration materials for Regional Assembly are now in congregations and on our website, www.oidisciples.org. You can find the schedule and suggested hotels on line as well.

Worship planning is well underway, with excellent speakers/preachers, a joint choir, and uplifting congregational singing. The joint choir will rehearse at Northwood the Tuesday before the assembly, and the two anthems will be available ahead of time for practice in other locations or individually. A rehearsal will also be held at the assembly during the Saturday morning workshop period, and the choir will sing for the Saturday afternoon worship.

Speakers include...

- Friday afternoon: Dick Hamm, Introducing Future Story
- Friday evening: Vy Nguyen, Preaching opening worship

Saturday breakfast: Vy Nguyen, Week of Compassion stories
Saturday morning: Blanca Puma, speaking in morning session
Saturday afternoon: Cathy and Doug Wirt, launching future story

Dick Hamm has been our regional consultant, commissioned by our board, to help create a three year vision for the regional church. Vy Nguyen is the Executive Director of Week of Compassion ministry. Blanca Puma is the Executive Director of FEDCIE, Ecuador.

Learn more on the website!!
In April, most people think about taxes. We also seek gifts for the Annual Fund of the Christian Church in Oregon-SW Idaho. The two share more in common than the calendar. Your Disciples regional and general church ministries do things that have important tax implications for members, churches and ministers. However, ministries of administration can seem important only when left undone.

For example, each year, regional and general church ministries work with congregations to create an annual Yearbook of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This lists recognized and new church ministries, congregational facts and figures, and the ordained and commissioned ministers of our church. Each regional office sends an annual share of dollars to publish the Yearbook. The Yearbook verifies for congregations that they are covered by the Disciples of Christ group tax exemption. For ministers, the Yearbook listing confirms that they are eligible to file their own taxes with a minister’s housing allowance. Ministers also verify with the regional church their contact information and continuing participation in the church as ministers.

Your regional church also pays for an annual professional audit of regional church expenses. This can prove to the IRS and state governments that funds are earned and used according to laws governing non profit organizations. This allows members, in giving generously of their income, to claim a tax deduction for giving to the church. Gifts to the Annual Fund of the regional church support all the visible ministries that you read about in the newsletter. Your gifts also make possible many other quieter activities, that sustain all of our ministries, year in and year out. So we thank you! “Each part working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.” Eph. 4:16

Regional Church Vision Team Update

The Vision team is preparing a video for the launching of our “future story” at the Regional Assembly in May. If you would like to participate, please send videos of rivers running through your town or still shots with faces prominently centered to Stacy Shelton at stacy.shelton@gmail.com.

The team has presented to the regional board for their discussion two drafts of our “future story” which is still being revised at this writing. The “future story” is to be presented to the regional assembly to be held at Northwood Christian Church as we reach forward in our ministry together.

The three year story highlights what the team heard as they listened to Oregon and SW Idaho Disciples over a 2 year period, from 2014-today. The first year’s goals are to deepen the network of shared ministry in our districts; to vastly increase our expertise in the use of technology for resource distribution and connection between congregations and our global church; and to engage in the whole church Mission First project while developing a deep pool of leaders trained in anti-racism action through a pilot project of Reconciliation Ministries.

Camp Publicity Materials on Line

Materials for Summer Camps are posted on the regional website and have been sent to congregations.

Fedice Ecuador Trip 2016

More than a dozen Oregon and Idaho Disciples will visit Ecuador in June 2016. The group comes from at least seven different congregations in the region. More than half will be going on their first visit to work with our mission partner FEDICE in Ecuador.

We will commission the Ecuador travelers at the Regional Assembly at Northwood Christian Church in Springfield on the morning of May 21. Please pray for the preparations for the trip, for our travelers and for the FEDICE staff and churches. FEDICE Executive Director Blanca Puma and her husband Luis Jara will be at the Regional Assembly in Springfield May 20-21 and with the Snake River District on May 22.

Come get to know them or renew your acquaintance to show your support for their ministry. The Regional Assembly will receive a special offering on Saturday morning to support the new regional project in Romerillos, Ecuador.

Men’s Ministries in Oregon-SW Idaho

Many men’s groups meet often within the congregations of the Christian Church in Oregon-SW Idaho. Recently, more of the local men’s groups have started meeting with the men in nearby churches. In the Columbia Gorge District, men from several churches have met together monthly for over a year. Some have traveled between Portland and Salem, or between Salem and Lebanon. Each meeting is different, except that each one ends with an interest in getting together again. Disciples Men from across North America will gather this summer in Fort Worth, Texas on the campus of Texas Christian University. Called “Sessions ’16,” this event will gather Disciples men with the theme “You are Called by Name.” See www.discipleshomemissions.org.

Women’s Pray and Play Day 2016 Dates

Pray and Play is now in full swing for this year. The cost has been reduced to $10, which is down $5.00 from last year. Registration covers program materials, a magazine to take home, and a gift. Pray and Play events are 3 hour mini-retreats and have time for playing together and praying together as the name suggests. Registration materials also on website.

Three events have happened already in Salem, Eugene and La Grande, with 104 women participating so far. You can see pictures on our website and on our Facebook Page. Thanks go to FCC Salem, FCC Eugene and FCC La Grande for excellent hospitality.

An offering is received at the event split equally between Disciples Mission Fund and our newest project with FEDICE in Romerillos, Ecuador. So far the offering has totaled $932. The women have also been contributing blessings box offering (over $275 so far) and spinning a “wheel of blessing” to remember our many blessings — again, check out the pictures! They also have contributed books to Lynchwood School and purchased notebooks with covers made by our sisters in Mozambique. The most fun is simply playing and praying together with women from multiple congregations. Come join the fun!

Dates and places yet to be...

Medford, April 2        Hood River, April 9    Mountain Home, April 16