

**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**

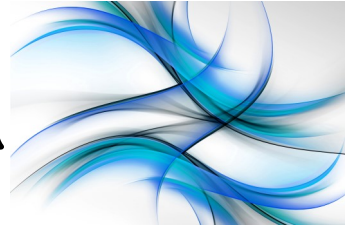
- ◆ August 26 Salem, Ordination, Zane Ridings Cathy/Doug
- ◆ August 13 Portland First, Preaching Doug
- ◆ Aug. 6-11 Church Camp, Suttle Lake Cathy
- ◆ July 30 Portland First, Worship Cathy
- ◆ July 29-Aug 4 Church Camp, Suttle Lake Doug
- ◆ July 26 Portland FCC meeting Doug
- ◆ July 23 Lynchwood, Worship Cathy
- ◆ July 23 Lebanon, Preaching Doug
- ◆ July 19 Boise, Red Rock, Committee Meeting Doug
- ◆ July 20 FEDICE meeting Doug
- ◆ July 16 Principe de Paz, Preaching, Anniversary Doug
- ◆ July 10-12 Indianapolis, General Assembly Doug
- ◆ July 7-10 Indianapolis, General Assembly Cathy
- ◆ July 2 Portland First, Worship Cathy
- ◆ July 2 Springfield First/ Glenwood Preaching Doug
- ◆ June 25 Portland First, Worship Cathy
- ◆ June 25 Boise, Red Rock, Worship Doug
- ◆ June 21 Albany, Verne Catt McDowell Bd. Doug
- ◆ June 21 McKenzie River, Eugene Ministers' BBQ Cathy



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*Prayers for Campers and Staff*

This summer's kids camp and junior camp in Idaho had great experiences hosted by Burley First Christian and Cascade Camp in Cascade, Idaho. July 30, 4 camps will start at the same time: Middle School Camp and High School Camps at Suttle Lake in central Oregon and the same two ages at Cascade Camp. Four camps will run on the same week!! The following week, the Oregon junior camp will happen at Suttle Lake.

This year's theme is "Do the Math" and campers will seek to

- Multiple** Love and Blessing
- Divide** Stuff Equally
- Subtract** Hate from your Life
- Add** Grace into the World
- Check your work!**



In the fall, we will hold a series of conversations about the future shape of our camping ministry. Stay tuned for the details and share in the conversation

**Regional Ministry Emails Change**

*New Email Addresses for the Regional Ministers*

**Doug:** [doug@oidisciples.org](mailto:doug@oidisciples.org)

**Cathy:** [cathy@oidisciples.org](mailto:cathy@oidisciples.org)

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**News from our Congregations**

**Red Rock:** Farewell for Associate Pastor Erin Donnell who concluded her ministry on 6/25.

**Grants Pass:** church camp out weekend in August.

**Junction City:** Eclipse viewing adventure, 8/21

**Dallas:** CWF Teddy Bear drive for CASA.

**Corvallis:** annual church retreat at Belknap Hot Springs.

**Nampa:** Launching new website soon.

**Albany:** Taking River Float trip in August.

**Murray Hills:** 100 children for Vacation Bible School!

**Pendleton:** Potluck in the park

**Principe de Paz:** Celebration for 2nd anniversary on 7/16.

**Keizer:** *Fun in the Field*, games and carnival

**Christ Church, Portland;** we join in the joyful welcome for Baby Desmond, born to Sarah and Pastor Adam Phillips.

**La Grande:** worship at the Riverside Park, 7/16

**Lynchwood:** Pastor Andrew Guthrie, guest preacher in Indianapolis area congregation during General Assembly

**Save these dates!**

- August 18-20**  
*Cascade, Idaho*  
*Snake River District*  
*Women's Retreat*
- August 26**  
*Ordination Service for*  
*Zane Ridings, Salem FCC*
- September 22**  
*Springfield, Oregon*  
*Anti-Racism Training*
- September 23**  
*Medford*  
*First*  
*Christian*  
*Installation*  
*Service for*  
*Pastor Stacy Shelton*



**Regional Assembly**  
**May 18-19, 2018**  
**Portland FCC**  
Rev. Sandhya Jha  
&  
Dr. Timothy James



We are now in the second year of our “Future Story” as a regional church. In preparation we prayed, talked, and listened to create a three year set of hopes/goals. At the Regional Assembly in 2016 in Springfield we launched into this three year venture together.

In our first year, we trained nine persons to be anti-racism trainers and are in the process now of holding three events to engage all of our pastors and some lay leaders in anti-racism one day training events. One of the three events has happened and included over 60 people. We also moved into a season of learning to use video conferencing for more of our meetings and upgraded some of our communication technology. We hosted a series of three Mission First gatherings to be a part of a denomination wide visioning process. We have begun the process of hiring several small part time positions for targeted regional church work in camp ministry and communication and soon will hire for supporting new church leadership. We are seeking to energize our five geographic districts and will launch a regional online newsletter, online giving and online registration for events this fall.

In year two of the story, we will build our Anti-Racism team to move us forward in this work, engage in better awareness of stewardship of accumulated wealth, expand our men’s ministries, and welcome several new congregations to full membership in the regional church.

One of our hopes for year one that is still unfolding is the training and commissioning of a group of regional elders to offer pastoral care particularly to our retired and active clergy families during times of need. We hope to have more to report on this soon.

In hope, Cathy

## General Assembly Reflections

The 2017 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada ended on a high note on July 12.

The closing worship service featured the installation of a new General Minister and President, Terri Hord Owens. She comes to the position as the second consecutive female local pastor and the first African American person elected as General Minister and President. She most recently served as Pastor of First Christian Church in Downers Grove, IL and as Dean of Students at University of Chicago Divinity School. You can see the installation at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S\\_DD43ge0BY&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_DD43ge0BY&feature=youtu.be) with Rev. Hord Owens sermon starting at 1:16 in the video. Rev. Terri Hord Owens succeeds Dr. Sharon Watkins who served for the maximum twelve years as General Minister and President. The Assembly honored Dr. Watkins on the first night of the event.

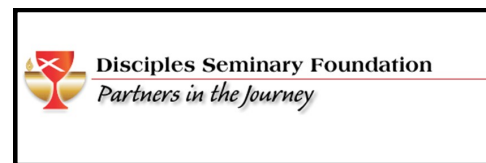
The General Assembly also celebrated Disciples’ progress toward the 2020 Vision goal of 1,000 new churches in the first twenty years of the twenty-first century. The number of new and affiliating churches now stands at 985!



## Caribbean Initiative Launched — Embrace the Spirit

Every two years, Global Ministries names a new initiative to focus on one of the areas of the world where we engage in mission partnerships. For the next two years our attention will be focused on the Caribbean nations of Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, and Colombia. Recent pilgrimage visits have taken church leaders from North America to these countries and people from Caribbean churches to North America to prepare for this season of celebration. At the website below you can find music, stories, Bible studies, and more. As the months go forward, more resources will continue to build the site. You can use these resources for classes, sermons, worship, and events. Remember there are people in our regional church that can serve as speakers about their experiences in these countries. Stay tuned.

<http://www.globalministries.org/caribbeaninitiative>



## Seminary Considers Move to Oregon

**Claremont School of Theology** has announced its strong interest in relocating the seminary to Salem, Oregon. While not finalized at this time, the seminary

has had extensive conversations about becoming a graduate school affiliated with Willamette University. For sixty years, CST has worked in close partnership with Disciples Seminary Foundation and this partnership would continue should a move transpire. The office of Disciples Seminary Foundation would remain at its present location in Claremont, California, with the likelihood of a staff person deployed to Salem.

Disciples Seminary Foundation supports ministry education specifically for Disciples in the western United States. DSF is active in California in San Diego, Claremont, Berkeley and San Anselmo, and in Seattle as well. These involvements would continue in the event of a move by Claremont seminary. Currently Disciples in Idaho and Oregon are studying for the Master of Divinity degree with CST by means of a new online education program.

## Women’s Retreats...Plan to Come and bring Friends

The Snake River District women will host its annual retreat in Cascade, Idaho on August 18-20 at the Ashley Inn. This year’s speaker is Rev. Marci Rau, Chaplain and Interplay Leader.

The western districts of our regional church host a women’s retreat to be held at Murray Hills Christian Church on October 13-14. This year’s speaker is Rev. Dr. Katy Valentine, member of the staff in Northern California/Nevada region and pastor in a congregation in that region.

Both of these retreats offer times of inspiration, fun, creativity, community building, outreach and learning. Watch the web page for more information.

Both groups are reading the book, *“Before we were Free”* for our annual women’s book club read. Copies of the book can be found at libraries, used on line, or purchased from the regional church office for \$5.00.

Registration materials are posted on our website at:

<http://www.oidisciples.org/womens-fall-retreat-2014>

