

## 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*  
**Liz Cronin**, Bookkeeper  
**Bernice Rivera**, Leadership Dev.  
**Stacy Shelton**, Communications  
**Renee Windsor-White**,  
*Administrative Assistant*

## Online and In Person with Doug and Cathy

- ♦ Mar. 7 Oregon Disciple Foundation on zoom
- ♦ Feb. 26 Salem FCC, worship/preaching in person
- ♦ Feb. 22 Western Regional Ministers on zoom
- ♦ Feb. 21 Blue Mountain Rivers District Pastors zoom
- ♦ Feb. 19 Salem FCC, Farewell for James Brooks, in person
- ♦ Feb. 17 Regional Church Elders on zoom
- ♦ Feb. 12 Northwood Christian Church worship in person
- ♦ Feb. 12 Springfield FCC, David Waggoner Minister pin
- ♦ Feb. 9 Scenic Rivers District pastors zoom
- ♦ Feb. 9 New Church Ministries Team on zoom
- ♦ Feb. 9 Salem FCC Transition Committee on zoom
- ♦ Feb. 8 Tulsa Talks on zoom
- ♦ Feb. 8 College of Regional Ministers zoom
- ♦ Feb. 6 Albany FCC Leaders zoom
- ♦ Feb. 5 Murray Hills CC Worship in person
- ♦ Feb. 4 Regional Board on zoom
- ♦ Feb. 2 Commission on Finance and Administration zoom
- ♦ Feb. 1 Lynchwood CC, Governing Documents, in person
- ♦ Jan. 31 Executive Committee on zoom
- ♦ Jan. 30 Verne Catt McDowell Foundation Board on zoom
- ♦ Jan. 29 Dallas FCC, Community conversation in person
- ♦ Jan. 29 Albany FCC, worship, in person



www.oidisciples.org 245 S Bancroft Suite F, Portland 97239

# Week of Compassion

This February we once again receive an offering for our shared response to disaster, refugee resettlement and development ministry.

The theme "Rise up Anew" reminds us of the resilience of people when we work together at common purpose to share compassion around the globe.

This year grants were received in our regional church to assist with people in southern Oregon still recovering from deadly wildfires and for the project led by Pacific Islands Family Church to deliver needed goods to the Chuuk Islands where the people are feeling the effects of rising sea water around the island, making it difficult to cultivate sufficient food.

Last year congregations and individuals in our regional church gave \$90,314 to the offering and an additional \$1,058,516 to designated projects such as wildfire rebuilding, Ukrainian aide to displaced persons and storm damage around the world, for a total of \$1,148,830.

Week of Compassion website is FULL of resources to invite participation this year.

Go to <https://www.weekofcompassion.org/2023.html> to find videos, video sermons, artwork, stories, worship resources, learning



activities for all ages, children's sermons, bulletin inserts and much more.

February  
March  
2023

Volume 9 Issue 1

Tulsa Talks 4 3  
Conversation  
on African  
American  
History 2/8

Grant Program 3  
for Domestic  
Violence  
Shelters

News from 4  
Congregations,  
Upcoming  
Events,  
Regional  
Minister  
Update

Regional  
Ministers to  
Retire in 2023  
See inside

## News from our Congregations

**Portland FCC:** Enjoyed a Lunar New Years party with special foods at coffee hour.

**Nampa & Red Rock Boise** held a joint ice skating party.

**Rio de Dios, Murray Hills, The View** held a bowling party together.

**Medford:** received a grant from Week of Compassion to help people displaced by fires.

**Pacific Islands Family Church, Portland:** Received Week of Compassion grant and regional support to send food and clothing to people in Chuuk Islands affected by rising sea levels.

**Red Rock, Boise:** Called Rev. Tracia Deal to be their new Senior Pastor beginning February 20.

**Albany FCC:** Called Jared and Allison Ruari as Co-Pastors to begin April 1.

**Salem FCC:** Called Gene Hill as Interim Senior Minister to begin in March.

**Portsmouth Union Church:** Ari Douglas began as Pastor on Feb. 1. Shari Eggleston completed her interim ministry on Jan 31.

**New Hope and Treasure Valley:** Combined for a healing prayer service.

## Upcoming Events

February 8

Tulsa Talks 4 (page 3)

February 19

Farewell Party for James Brooks, 1:00 p.m.  
Salem First Christian

Check Out

[www.oidisciples.org](http://www.oidisciples.org)  
and  
[facebook.com/CCOSWI](https://facebook.com/CCOSWI)



## By now you have heard...

Unexpected joys have come to me many times in visiting churches in different countries through Global Ministries. I remember being the one who kept the bus waiting as I stayed for one more conversation with brothers and sisters in Christ whose language I could not speak well or at all. In Ha Sekepe, Lesotho, I lingered after a thousand people dispersed from the *moketi*, a great feast celebrating the dedication of a new church building. In Congo, I lingered using my faded high school French, listening to the woman who showed me the homes where the Fleshmans had lived as mission partners from Oregon. After a long double wedding ceremony in northern Ecuador, I'd had my fill of food but not of the people who welcomed us so graciously. At one Disciples church in rural Mexico, I wanted another chip load of the freshest guacamole ever, as our sons waited by the bus playing hacky-sack. You've seen the type, always the last one to leave the church after coffee hour.

Even after twenty-two years as Co-Regional Ministers, Cathy and I have some of these same feelings after announcing our retirement. Countless moments of fullness and glimpses of joy have come to us in dozens of places and hundreds of ways. We know that more good things await the Disciples of Oregon and Southwest Idaho in the years to come. So with much gratitude and many mixed feelings, we have decided to retire as Regional Ministers on June 30, 2023.

Many times people have said, "I wouldn't want your job for anything." Cathy says "that means more job security for us." For us, since 2001 in Oregon and since 2014 in the new Southwest Idaho and Oregon region, we haven't wanted any other jobs. As Cathy said to the Regional Board, for us this is an opportunity of a lifetime. If we were going to complete a forty-first year of active, ordained ministry, we would hope to do so as Regional Ministers in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oregon and Southwest Idaho.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 says that God makes everything beautiful in its time. Verse 13 says that taking pleasure in one's toil is a gift from God. The people, the ministries, the places of the Oregon and Southwest Idaho Disciples are beautiful in unique ways. Spending time as partners in mission with you, with general church, ecumenical and global partners has come to us as a series of gifts from God. Just one blessed thing after another, you might say. Each one of our members, the pastors and congregations, each Sunday and each year together, a beautiful gift from God. And now it's time to say that it's time.

Thank you for your support of regional church ministries through Disciples Mission Fund, the Christmas offering, the Annual Fund, Pastor's Emergency Fund, camp scholarships, women's ministries, endowments and bequests, and of course to your local congregations. Thanks to so many who give their time and abilities generously. Thanks for the prayers, encouragement and insights you share all the time. Thank you to the Pension Fund of the Christian Church, working faithfully to bless ministers and church employees with ways to plan for retirement.

For now, we can linger a while longer and will look forward to seeing you, talking together and remembering how each one is a gift. We're not done yet! Whether sharing love throughout the world, the regional church, in congregations and communities or focused on one person at a time, it is always the right time to love. Loving consistently and creatively is our mission; it's what we do, and it's beautiful every time.

*Doug*



## Final "Tulsa Talks", Feb. 8, 6:30 Pacific 7:30 Mountain

Rev. Dr. Darryl Tukufu will be the featured guest for the fourth and final session of the Tulsa Talks series. Dr. Tukufu is a Disciples minister ordained at Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church in Memphis. He completed a term as an Elder at First Christian Church in Salem, Oregon prior to he and his wife Myra moving to Texas. Dr. Tukufu is also a past President of the Urban League of Portland.



# RECONCILIATION MINISTRY

The Tulsa Talks series gets its name from the Kirkpatrick Lectures held sponsored by Disciples of Christ Historical Society this past March at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa. During February, which is Black History Month, we encourage Oregon and Idaho Disciples to listen to the talks about early African American Disciple leaders. You will find these on the website of DCHS at [www.discipleshistory.org](http://www.discipleshistory.org). Click on "Tulsa Conference" and listen to the presentations about Preston Taylor and Sarah Lue Bostick.

For the February 8 session, discussion will focus on African American history and experience in Oregon and Idaho. Dr. Tukufu will share his observations comparing life and in ministry in the Pacific Northwest with other areas where he has lived.

To register for this February 8 online Zoom gathering, go to [www.oidisciples.org/news-clh8s](http://www.oidisciples.org/news-clh8s)

Whether you can attend online or not on February 8, you will soon find a list of resources on our website at [www.oidisciples.org/anti-racism-pro-reconciliation-reso](http://www.oidisciples.org/anti-racism-pro-reconciliation-reso)

## Regional Disciples Women launch grant program

On January 28 over 50 Disciples women gathered on line from all of our 5 districts to participate in a conversation grounded in the study of scripture and the testimony of first hand witness.

The theme of "Remember Me" was given voice by Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins, former General Minister and President of Disciple of Christ movement, with a Biblical study of stories found in Genesis and Judges about women who experienced abuse and trauma within the community. Mikah Neff, member of Lynchwood Christian Church and staff of Raphael House/domestic violence survivors outreach, brought the real life stories of women escaping abusive situations and the workers who create safe/transforming space for them to regain control in their lives and healing. Regional Minister, Cathy Myers Wirt, reminded those

gathered of the work their Disciples Women sisters before them had done to meet these needs and enter life with women both inside and outside of our congregations.

An offering was received, and is still open until February 15, of over \$1,000 to form the foundation of a grant fund for congregations to be present to the needs of the domestic shelters in their own communities. A matching fund will raise this to \$4,000. Grant proposals will be received in March and be dispersed by June, with stories told online. Watch our newsletter/mailings/Facebook page/website for more information.

