

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

- June 24 Commission on Ministry Doug
- June 23 Albany, Verne Catt McDowell Board Doug
- June 18 Bethel AME Prayer Vigil for South Carolina Doug
- June 17 McKenzie Bridge, Eugene Ministers BBQ Cathy
- June 17 EMO Board Meeting Doug
- June 14 La Viña, Troutdale, OR Worship Doug
- June 14 Murray Hills, Beaverton, Worship Doug
- June 14 Parkview, Meridian, ID Camp Staff Training Cathy
- June 12-14 Ontario, Kids' Camp & Sunday Worship Cathy
- June 11 New Church Team Doug
- June 11 Columbia Gorge Pastors' Meeting Cathy
- June 10-11 Charlie Wallace, New Church Team Visit Doug
- June 7 Medford, Preaching and meetings Cathy
- June 7 Hood River, Myrna Phillips Farewell Doug
- June 6 Regional Board Meeting Doug/Cathy
- June 4 Portland FCC Prayer Ministry Team Cathy
- June 4 Jerry Lang, Christian Church Fdn Cathy/Doug
- June 3 Lebanon Committee Meeting Doug
- June 3 Women's Prayer Circle Cathy
- June 2 Boise Red Rock Transition Team Doug
- June 2 Regional Vision Team Cathy

News from our Congregations

LaGrande: Youth music group heading to Snake River District to visit congregations there.

Lebanon: Hosted the June meeting of the Santiam District Pastors. The group is reading Sharon Watkin's book, *Whole*.

Midway: Will be sharing its building with a Pacific Islands Family Ministry.

Murray Hills: Thank you for hosting June Regional Board meeting. Summary of the meeting and Regional Minister Report can be found on our website at: <http://www.oidisciples.org/#!/news/c1h8s>

Medford: Preparing for an Interim Ministry this fall

Northwood, Springfield: Beginning to plan for Regional Assembly. Save the dates! May 21-22, 2016. Rev. Vy Nguyen, Preacher.

Ontario: Thank you for hosting the Kids Camp in June and to **Red Rock, Boise** for also providing leadership!

Parkview: Thank you for hosting the Camp Cascade Camp Staff Training Event and sending a crew up to the camp to do last minute painting.

Salem: Had a team join the Union Gospel Mission Walk for Hope in June.

Save these dates!

July 20-25 Cascade Camp High School Camp

July 26-31 Suttle Lake Camp Middle School/High School Camps

August 10-14 Suttle Lake Camp Junior Camp

August 14-16 Ashley Inn, Cascade, Idaho Women's Retreat

September 12 Hood River Installation of Pastor, Rev. Alicia Speidel

September 25 Keizer Boundary Training

September 26 Nampa Boundary Training



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General Assembly in Ohio

The General Assembly of the Christian Church in the United States and Canada will meet in Columbus, Ohio from July 18-22.



Here are a few things to know about this year's General Assembly:

- Disciples will celebrate that we are 85% (850 new churches) of the way toward our 2020 Vision goal of starting 1,000 new churches between 2001 and 2020.
- Six Disciples from our region will represent new churches started in the twenty first century.
- Three resolutions will propose changes in regional boundaries.
- Global Ministries will honor The View Christian Church for their many ways of supporting global mission partnerships.
- The next General Assembly is planned for Indianapolis in 2017 and Des Moines, Iowa will be considered for 2019.
- Disciples from the northwest regions will meet for a reception on Sunday night after the evening session in room D131.

2015 Personal Boundary Trainings, Sept. 25-26

Dr. Ruth Fletcher, Regional Minister of the Christian Church in Montana, will lead two identical workshops on personal boundaries on September 25 and 26. These sessions are required for all active ordained and commissioned Disciples ministers in the Christian Church in Oregon and SW Idaho. Others are welcome to attend as well. Locations are:

- Friday, September 25, 10 am – 4 pm, Keizer Christian Church
- Saturday, September 26, 10 am -- 4 pm, First Christian in Nampa



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*Regional Assembly
May 20-21, 2016*

*Hosted by
Northwood Christian
in
Springfield, Oregon*

My Turn

You may have seen stories about strangers who leave a huge tip for a server at a restaurant, or someone who pays the toll booth for strangers in a car behind them. These surprisingly generous gifts make news because it seems different. It's not surprising to me, though. I see it all the time.

Every day I get to see people blessing others they don't know through what we call Disciples Mission Fund. Totally voluntary and amazingly generous gifts are shared every day by Disciples with other Disciples, global partners and strangers who don't know each other. For example, gifts given in Oregon and Idaho have gone to help people and to support churches in Ecuador, Congo and Mozambique. Oh, and a few dozen other countries. Happens every day.

You can see strangers blessing strangers all the time. In less than a year, we have had visits from:

- ✦ Rosario Ibarra of Disciples Church Extension Fund, which helps Disciples in one place to achieve their visions, with loans funded by money invested by other Disciples somewhere else;
- ✦ Matt Rosine of the Pension Fund, sharing with church planters about how our common retirement plan can brighten their financial future, even with the tremendous personal sacrifices they have made in starting a new church;
- ✦ Vy Nguyen, our Director of Week of Compassion, which delivers the loving concern of Disciples to people struck almost anywhere by disasters, whether they're Christians or not;
- ✦ Charlie Wallace of Hope Partnership, welcoming new church pastors to Disciples, where we support their ministries of welcoming new people into Christian faith and community;
- ✦ Rebecca Hale of National Benevolent Association, offering support for Oregon and Idaho Disciples who want their neighbors to have food.
- ✦ Bruce Barkhauer and Jerry Lang, teaching Idaho and Oregon Disciples about Christian stewardship, in order to bless more.

We have all of these ministry partners and many more, because people we don't know give so generously to Disciples mission causes. Who was that kind stranger? It was an anonymous brother or sister, or your church or you, every time you support Disciples Mission Fund.

Thanks to God and God's people!

Doug



Kids Camp Rocked the House in Ontario

Fourteen kids who have completed kindergarten through the second grade kids showed up on a Friday night in June to the Ontario First Christian Church. They were met by a crew of loving adults from the Ontario and Red Rock Christian Churches and enjoyed a full weekend of activities and learning together. The camp was complete with sleeping in "cabins" (class rooms) and had a campfire — hot dogs and s'mores on a farm outside of town. The kids played games, learned music which they presented in worship on Sunday, wrote prayers, did crafts, wore matching camp shirts, took a camp picture, watched a movie, ate good food, and met in small groups for discussion. Under the Regional Camp Theme for 2016, *Say What?*, they did everything else that the older kids and youth do at camp except go to the woods. This event helps gets kids ready for junior camp in the future and provides Christian community and education and regional connections for the kids right now.

Special thanks to Directors Donna Culley, Ontario and Tammy Anderson, Red Rock Boise.



This is What Partnership Looks Like

(Erik started his blog by talking about watching episodes of Star Trek on his computer while in Mozambique and thinking of the value of having a "transporter" to bring things between Africa and North America.)

Well, when I got done fantasizing about the potential uses of science fiction technology in working overseas I remembered that our supporters in the Oregon and SW Idaho region of the Disciples of Christ have recently found a wonderful way to "beam" resources to Mozambique.

Many of the churches of this region have been raising community gardens on their church properties and marketing the produce in local markets as a fundraising effort. This last year they decided to send some of these proceeds to support the farming project in Gogoi.

When I saw the pictures of their gardens in Oregon I got really excited because I saw they had grown beans! And, what do you think is the first crop we will begin growing in our teaching gardens in Gogoi? That's right folks . . . beans!

So, if you really think about it the good folks in Oregon and SW Idaho have found a way to "transport" beans across the world in nearly *Star Trek* fashion. It may still take longer than simply "beaming" the resources here, but I think the idea of support for an agriculture project in Mozambique coming from an agriculture project in the States is a fantastic idea.

When I told our friends in Gogoi that people in the United States were growing beans to raise support funds for their project here they thought that was amazing.

I hope you do too, and I hope we all continue to think of unique and interesting ways to raise support for our partners around the world.

Erik Free, Global Mission Worker, Mozambique

Two Women's Retreats: August in Idaho and October in Oregon

In Cascade, Idaho, August 14-16, Rev. Patty Evans, recently retired pastor of Albany First Christian Church, will lead under the theme "God's Vision for Me". The Ashley Inn offers gracious hospitality in a beautiful place. This three day retreat in a hotel offers a time of fun and inspiration.

In Beaverton, Oregon, October 16-17, Rev. Sandhya Jha, Director of the Oakland Peace Center, will speak on the theme "Lift Every Voice." Thank you to Murray Hills Christian Church for hosting us again this year. This 24 hour retreat held in a church building, brings an oasis for renewal while participants stay in homes or local hotels.

Information and registration materials for both retreats can be found at www.oidisciples.org or by calling 503.226.7648 for materials.

