



## Regional Ministers' Report, June 1, 2019

Since the last Regional Board meeting in February, we have **visited in the following 22 congregations:**

- **Snake River District:** Parkview/Meridian, New Hope/Meridian, Nampa, Red Rock/Boise, Pacific Outreach Christian Church/Boise.
- **Columbia River Gorge District:** Portland FCC, Lynchwood/Portland, Murray Hills/Beaverton, Principe de Paz/Portland, Rio de Dios/Hillsboro.
- **Santiam River District:** Corvallis, Salem FCC, Dallas, McMinnville, Iglesia Cristiana Jehovah Nisi/Keizer, Keizer, Silverton.
- **Scenic Rivers District:** Northwood/Springfield, Grants Pass, Medford.
- **Blue Mountain Rivers:** Pendleton, Ione.

We met with the **Blue Mountain River District** pastors in Ione and with the **Santiam District** pastors in Salem twice as well as the Snake River District pastors in Boise. Other **regular meetings** included **Finance Commission, Anti Racism Pro Reconciliation Team, Commission on Ministry, Interchurch Center board, and New Church Ministry Team**. In addition to these regular gatherings, we also hosted the regional ministers of the western regions (**WRIM**) for a 3 day gathering in March. The WRIM group visited with the Certificate of Ministry Studies students for a part of one evening. The annual meeting of the **Oregon Disciple Foundation** met during this time as well. Doug participated in the annual **Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon** banquet in April. Cathy went to Scottsdale to attend the **Week of Compassion** Board of Stewards (she is the current Vice-Chair of this board) and Doug attended the **Disciples Seminary Foundation** Board (he is the current Vice-Chair of this board) in Claremont, California. Doug presently also serves on the board for **North American Pacific Asian Disciples**.

Five congregations in the region had **pastoral search processes underway since we last met**. Portland FCC (board has approved a candidate that will be presented to the congregation June 2), Lynchwood (search committee receiving profiles), Nampa FCC (associate minister installed in May) and Salem FCC (search committee interviewing candidates), McMinnville (short term pulpit supply in place). Ione Pastor, Jeff Clabaugh started his ministry in February.

Cathy is working with several churches at different stages on **Faithful Planning processes (Ontario, Dallas, Burley)**, assisting **Lynchwood** in the follow up of their New Beginnings process, and in reviewing of **governing documents (Murray Hills, Keizer, Burley, John Day, and Dallas)** with several others ready to start soon. Cathy also met with a group in the **Red Rock/Boise** congregation working on their vision plan. Doug has continued involvement at **McMinnville** including positive outcome: with the county (taxes) and the state (payment for easement).

We offered opportunities for training since the last board meeting: **Disaster preparedness** event with **Week of Compassion** Staff hosted by Corvallis with 3 congregations participating and **Planned giving** workshop with **Christian Church Foundation** hosted by Murray Hills, with 4 congregations participating. Cathy has met with the **Regional Elders** to do an evaluation of the pilot program and will bring a report to the board meeting on June 1. She also met with Vice Moderator, Robi Ingram-Rich, to discuss an evaluation process for our **Future Story** three year vision plan. She has also continued to meet with the leadership of our **seven church camps** that are preparing for this summer. In addition, she has spoken with leadership at Salem FCC and will be meeting with them on June 15 to start the local arrangements work for the **2020 Regional Assembly**.

We have attended/participated in **five memorial services** since the last board meeting. Doug went to three memorial services for retired clergy: Dan Armstrong, David Arnold and Doug Rose. Cathy attended the memorial for retired pastor Bill Pifer and Janet Famme, custodial staff of Murray Hills/Beaverton. In addition we had meals/coffee with several pastors/key lay leaders in congregations.

We have had several months now of working through the **staff reductions** implemented with this year's budget. The loss of the administrative assistant position has required ongoing adaptations. The reduced funding for the Regional Minister position adds to this challenge. We have continued to identify one week per month when one Regional Minister doesn't schedule appointments, though the person who is "off" ends up doing a lot of phone calls and email from home. Another change is that we visit churches together even less than we did before. We appreciate the help of board members in interpreting that we're challenged to do more tasks with less time funded. This isn't so much from a decline in giving, as in overall DMF revenue staying fairly flat over time as costs increase. Following a busy summer of camps, General Assembly and pastoral transitions, we hope to **give more time to congregations where we have not yet visited in 2019**. As in 2018, we will make a list of churches to visit and work through these as some of the search process conclude or move forward. We expect that Cathy will continue to have active **search processes** in the fall and that Doug's current searches will move toward conclusion. As we've said before, if we haven't been to your church lately, let's find a time!

Respectfully submitted,

*Doug and Cathy Myers Wirt*