

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

- Sept. 4 Portland FCC, Worship Cathy/Doug
- Aug. 28 Beaverton, Murray Hills, Fedice Celebration Doug
- Aug. 26-28 Indianapolis, Mission Works Event Cathy
- Aug. 24-26 Indianapolis, College of Regional Ministers Cathy
- Aug. 21 Portland, Christ Church BBQ Cathy
- Aug. 21 Portland, St John's Community, Worship Cathy
- Aug. 21 Grants Pass FCC, Worship Doug
- Aug. 20 Airport to meet Kim and Erik Free Doug/Cathy
- Aug. 19 Albany FCC committee meeting Cathy
- Aug. 18 Planning Cte West Coast Women's Event Cathy
- Aug. 15 National Benevolent Association Board Cathy
- Aug. 14 Salem, Chuukese Fellowship Doug
- Aug. 14 Salem, Taylor & Misha Lind Welcome Doug
- Aug. 8 Lebanon FCC Doug
- Aug. 7-12 Suttle Lake, Junior Camp Cathy
- Aug. 7 Portland FCC, Keith Watkins send off Doug
- Aug. 6 Lynchwood, Allene Hays Birthday Party Cathy
- July 30-Aug. 5 Suttle Lake, CYF & Chi Rho Camps Cathy/Doug
- July 30 Beaverton, Bob Dewey Memorial Service Doug
- July 24 Portland, Pacific Islands Family Church Doug
- July 24 Eugene, Glenwood Doug

News from our Congregations

Nampa: Held a picnic in the park.

Pacific Islands Family Church: Outreach to Chuukese ministry in Eureka, CA

Salem: Welcome event for Taylor and Misha Lind

Keizer: Michael Crouch has accepted a call to serve as the new Interim Minister beginning September 11.

St. Johns: Bethany Waggoner guest preacher on her work with Global Ministries in Chile and Ecuador

Lebanon: Sunday Worship service in the park

Springfield: Held a yard sale for their building fund

Allison Park: Annual plant sale raised \$500 for regional church camp scholarships!

La Grande: Yard sale raised money for the Koinonia House campus ministry

Eugene First: Enjoyed an all church retreat at Suttle Lake Camp

Murray Hills Beaverton: Held a worship service led by participants of this summer's Fedice/Ecuador trip



Save these dates!

September 17, 18, 24, 25

Mission First Events

Visit of Jim and Jayanthi Wilson

17—Eugene First Christian

18—Portland First Christian

24—Boise—Red Rock

25—Blue Mountain Rivers District

October 14-15 Beaverton

Women's Retreat



www.oidisciples.org 0245 SW Bancroft Suite F, Portland 97239

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada is in the middle of a process called "Mission First." During this season of discernment conversations around focused questions are being held in almost every regional church.

Our regional church had a similar set of conversations in 2014-16 regarding regional ministries. The Mission First process focuses on our relationship to general church (national and international) ministries.

The Mission First conversations will be held in our region in September.

September 17, Eugene First Christian 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

September 18, Portland First Christian 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

September 24, Red Rock Christian 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

September 25, Pendleton First Christian & by video link 1:00 to 3:30

The events will begin with hearing from recently returned mission personnel. Jim and Jayanthi Wilson have served in Africa since the late 1980s and have been global mission partners with the Oregon region in years past when they served in Lesotho.

After hearing about the global witness of our whole church, we will share stories of our own congregational mission efforts and look for themes in what we are learning about mission than can be shared with the wider church.

Ideas and themes emerging from Mission First conversations will be gathered reviewed by a Mission Council of 45 persons from around the church at a meeting in December.



A report out of what they see in the data will come to regional boards and the General Board in early 2017

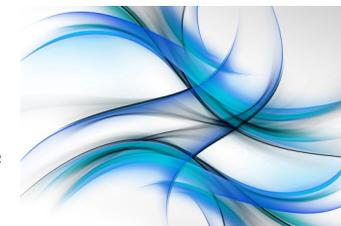
Regional Office Email Changed

New email address for the regional office

office.oidisciples@gmail.com

September
October
2016

Volume 3 Issue 8



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

Future Story Update

The Future Story work of your regional church continues as the fall season approaches. A implementation committee is in the process of formation and will receive orientation to its work from consultant, Dick Hamm. Dick has been in touch with regional staff to start the work of scheduling that orientation. Next steps in this process during the fall include:

- ◆ Formation of a Technology Committee
- ◆ Inviting each of our five districts to begin to create at least one event, project, or network for 2017
- ◆ Creating a list of affinity groups within in the regional church ministries
- ◆ Enlisting and training a group of 4-6 Regional Elders.
- ◆ Holding Mission First Events in four locations, September 17-25 (see front page of this newsletter)
- ◆ Preparing to employ new part time staff for technological tasks and connections
- ◆ Assisting congregations in online resources such as websites, online giving, and social media for use in the congregational settings through resources generated from our technology committee
- ◆ Training leaders to become Anti-Racism/ Pro-Reconciliation Trainers to train the pastors and leaders of the regional church. Sandhya Jha and Nathan Hill will launch a pilot project October 1—November 4 to to offer training using a whole group gathering and online conferencing.
- ◆ Holding Anti-Racism training for commissioned and ordained pastors in November.

Watch our website as we move forward with the Future Story vision of our regional church.



Regional Ministers and Moderators Issue Letter on Racism

The College of Regional Ministers and the Fellowship of Regional Moderators issued a letter on the topic of racism to the church and community after their meeting in August meeting in Indianapolis. You can read this letter by going to the Disciples of Christ website, www.disciples.org or our regional Facebook Page.

News about Global Ministries

Due to security reasons, Global Ministries has decided to conclude the assignment of **Erik and Kim Free** ahead of schedule. Kim and Erik returned to Oregon on August 20 and will live in the area temporarily. In the short term, they will visit in churches across North America to tell about ministry with our mission partners in Mozambique.

Bethany Waggoner visited for several weeks in the region after her work with Global Ministries in Chile and Ecuador. Her visits included Parkview, Northwood, St. Johns/University Park, Christ Church, Murray Hills, Suttle Lake high school camp and Eugene FCC.

Jim and Jayanthi Wilson are completing their many years of service with Global Ministries in Africa. They will visit in the region in September for the Mission First events.

The regional **Ecuador project** is 49% of the way toward our goal of \$17,500. So far, \$8,598 has been given, leaving \$8,902 to be raised. This supports loans for small family businesses.

Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Trainers in Training Soon

Our general church Reconciliation Ministries will assist Oregon and SW Idaho Disciples in two ways this fall. First, anti-racism trainers will work with a group of Disciples in the region to prepare new trainers who live in the Pacific Northwest. These trainings will happen on October 1 and 18, and on November 1-2.

Secondly, our guest trainers will lead a one day session for our commissioned and ordained ministers, plus others who would like to attend, on Friday, November 4. This training will be required for those active in or planning to seek placement in a credentialed ministry position. These trainings will prepare church leaders as the Northwest continues to become more diverse.

Reconciliation Offering in September

Through the Reconciliation offering, Disciples support ministries and special trainings close to home and across North America. Reconciliation funds go to ministries that address the causes and effects of racism in society. This includes ministries such as Gomer's House in Portland, the Peniel Mision Sonora, Yakama Christian Mission and educational events on faith and race relations. Christ Church in Portland sponsored a community forum on racism this year with Jim Wallis, author of a new book. Reconciliation Ministries also provide trainings for ministers and lay leaders to examine their own attitudes and opportunities for growth and witness.

Half of the Reconciliation offering goes to work within the regional church. The other half goes to wider church programs. Give to your Reconciliation offering September 25—October 2.



October Women's Retreat in Beaverton Featuring Cathy Nichols

Thank you to Murray Hills Christian Church in Beaverton for once again hosting a gathering for Disciple women in the fall. **October 14-15** women are invited for a time of conversation, reflection, play, worship and commissioning of a missionary. Cathy Nichols, our retreat keynote speaker, has served in Israel/Palestine with the church there and is most recently the Director for Personnel of our Global Ministries. She helps to match mission workers globally with the ministries that can best use their gifts and talents.

Cathy has also worked with refugee ministry and will bring us some reflection about the idea of finding home spiritually and finding homes for those who are in transition from homelessness or refugee camps to more stable lives.



Friday night will be a time of gathering and fun, and Saturday will bring worship, keynote time and two sets of workshops, including our annual women's book read. This year we are reading a book by An Na, *A Step from Heaven*. Copies are available from our regional church office for \$5.00. Full information and registration materials are on our web site, www.oidisciples.org.

There are discounts for first time attenders, groups, and youth. Come meet new friends and reconnect with friends you have not seen for a while.