

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

- Online with Doug and Cathy*
- Sept. 25 Congregational Governing Docs Webinar
 - Sept. 18 Church Extension Webinar/Building Usage
 - Sept. 15 Blue Mountain Rivers Clergy
 - Sept. 12 Lynchwood Christian Anniversary, Preaching
 - Sept. 11 Commission on Ministry
 - Sept. 9 Keizer Christian Church re Governing Docs
 - Sept. 9 Scenic Rivers District Clergy
 - Sept. 8 Columbia Gorge District Clergy
 - August 31 Santiam River District Clergy
 - August 27 Red Rock Boise, Interim Search Committee
 - August 25 College of Regional Ministers
 - August 25 Church Tax and Law Report Webinar
 - August 23 Eugene FCC Personnel Committee
 - August 22 Eugene FCC Board Meeting
 - August 19 Silverton FCC Pastoral Search Committee
 - August 18 Blue Mountain Rivers District Clergy
 - August 18 Eugene FCC Pastoral Search Committee
 - August 17 Regional Executive Committee
 - August 17 Wild Women of the West Planning Zoom
 - August 16 Red Rock Executive Committee
 - August 12 Silverton FCC Pastoral Search Committee



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Reconciliation Offering

*“For God does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart.”
1 Samuel 16:7b*

Disciples of Christ congregations will share in our annual special offering for Reconciliation Ministry on September 26 & October 2. The Reconciliation offering supports ministries that promote racial harmony and justice locally and across North America such as:

- Honest conversations about race and racism among Disciples;
- Local projects of service and learning;
- Yakama Christian Mission in White Swan, Washington.

Half of the funds given in the Oregon SW Idaho region stay within our regional church. The other half goes to Reconciliation Ministry in our general church.

The regional Anti-Racism Pro-Reconciliation team has created a brief video to view in worship or online. This video shows people from congregations here in the Oregon SW Idaho regional church reading Bible verses that relate to the Reconciliation theme. With a variety of locations, languages and voices represented, these Bible verses remind us that our foundation for life is found in God who created us all, and in the love of Jesus Christ. The theme is “I believe in Reconciliation, not Racism.” You will be able to see this video in worship, or on the regional Facebook page and/or on the regional website at www.oidisciples.org. You may give to the Reconciliation offering online at www.disciplesmissionfund.org, through your own congregation, or by sending a gift to the Regional Church office, PO Box 19466, Portland, OR 97280.



**September
October
2021**

Volume 7 Issue 6

**Regional Assembly
May 20-22, 2022
Thank you Salem
First Christian
Church for
offering to host**

News from Congregations

- Salem FCC:** Matthew and Michelle Harris-Gloyer began Sept. 1 as Associate Pastors.
- Portsmouth Union:** Shari Eggleston new Interim Minister
- Silverton FCC:** Gene Hill finished as Interim Minister and Derek Richman begins Sept. 7.
- Red Rock Boise:** Kevin Arensman will complete his ministry September 12 to begin a new ministry in Grand Junction, Colorado.
- Iglesia Nueva Vida:** Hosted an Hispanic Men's Retreat with 67 participants from 7 Disciples congregations in August.

Upcoming Events

- September 18:** Creative Building use event (online)
- September 25:** Remaking Governing Documents for a new time (online)
- September 26-October 3** Reconciliation Offering
- October 9:** Women's Gathering (online)
- October 16:** Co-Pastor Installation, Pendleton FCC, Rev. Karyn Dix
- October 20:** Webinar on how to use ALEX Data System (online)

**Hashtag #oidisciples
Facebook Page**
Christian Church in Oregon and SW Idaho
Common Current online news service
www.oidisciples.org/news-clh8s



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“For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part, then I will know fully even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.” **1 Corinthians 13:12-13**

“Are we there yet?” This familiar question rises not only from the lips of children. At any age, it’s very human to grow impatient on a long journey. Somewhere in between Egypt and the Promised Land, complaints arose among the people. It was taking much too long! In John 11, Martha criticized Jesus for taking too long to arrive.

Like the rest of the nation and world, we in the church have had an unsettling ride for the past 1 1/2 years of this pandemic. The Delta variant and inadequate vaccination rates have painfully delayed an end to the suffering and the day when things, if ever, can seem more normal.

Within the church, we need to acknowledge the frustrations we feel and the deep sorrow of over half a million lives lost in the US and more than four million worldwide. Ecclesiastes 3:4 says there is a time to weep, and to laugh, a time to mourn and to dance.

I also see this as a time to give thanks: for pastors who have shown amazing endurance, for church leaders who have shown faithful creativity, for health care workers who have shown up for the good of strangers over and over again, for millions of people who have done so much to protect themselves and others, keeping our losses from being even greater. I give thanks every Sunday and every day when God’s people have great stress and yet don’t take it out on each other. I’m thankful for all who keep giving and keep loving because that’s how we make sense in a world that doesn’t.

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13 that we’re not there yet, that our knowledge, understanding and vision are always limited. We may not feel like we can know the future very well (prophesy), or solve problems well enough (move mountains), or give enough (all my possessions), or say what is needed (tongues). Our realities can become overwhelming, and denying it doesn’t allow us a free pass any more than a sandcastle can deny when it’s high tide.

And yet, 1 Corinthians 13 says, if we make Christ like love our top priority, we will have found “a more excellent way,” come what may. Wherever we may be, that’s the way forward.

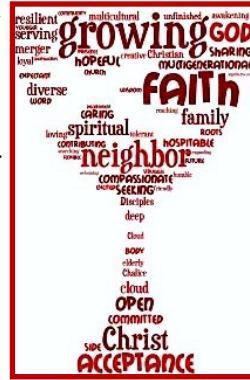
Doug

Is Your Congregation using ALEX?



Launched in 2020, the ALEX system for Disciples of Christ congregations tracks attendance and giving and houses the minister directory for the denomination. Congregations are asked to input data weekly through an easy to use app or website. This process will eventually replace the annual yearbook reports that congregations have made in the past. The system also provides multiple past years of data, so that congregations have access, in one place, to graphs and chart type info to look at their patterns to help make decisions for future ministry.

While some congregations are using this resource, many have yet to input data. If you are interested in learning more about how ALEX can benefit ALEX and how you can access this system for your congregational leaders, mark your calendar for a webinar format ZOOM meeting with regional staff member, Stacy Shelton, on **October 20, 10:00 a.m.** Please sign up on our website upcoming events. www.oidisciples.org/news-clh8s.



Invitation to online Women’s Event

2020-21 COVID 19 Pandemic continues to recreate our routines and our perceptions of the future. In her new novel, Louise Penny sets the story in a time after the COVID 19 Pandemic is over and people are living in its aftermath. Reading this book while still very much inside of the Pandemic feels disconcerting. For some reason the novel that keeps coming to my mind is Alice in Wonderland — Alice almost drowns in her own tears and finds herself stuck in her house, unable to leave. That story sounds like pandemic season to me.

In Tim Burton’s version of Alice, she repeats the refrain about believing six impossible things before breakfast. These days we are invited to believe impossible things before, during and after breakfast it seems.

October 9 women are invited to gathering on zoom to take stock of the moment we live in together — to drink a cup of tea, to tell our stories of being too big or too small for this season and reinforcing our hope together for the future. Lynnette Biggers, a pastor in our regional church for many years, used to often say, “I do not fear the future, for God is already there.”

Our text for this event is Romans 8 ²⁴ *For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes²⁴ for what is seen? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*

Watch our website, Facebook Page and emails for details and sign up link. For now, save Saturday morning, **October 9 from 10:00 to noon Pacific and 11:00 to 1:00 Mountain.**

Cathy Myers Wirt

FEDICE Endowment fund in memory of Susanne Fernow

At the July 17 online gathering of women, participants gave \$1,225.00 to the FEDICE USA Endowment Fund in memory of Susanne Fernow, long time supporter of the ministry who traveled to Ecuador two times and helped to raise awareness of FEDICE.

To learn more: www.fedice.org

All pieces of the July 17 event are on video on our website.

Upcoming Webinars Save/Share the Dates!

Re-imagining Building Use September 18 Webinar

After the pandemic closures, many congregations started to ask what to do with their buildings since they already learned how “to do church” without a building. Can we re-imagine the use of our buildings so they become a tool for ministry? In this workshop we will hear inspiring stories of how other congregations are re-imagining the use of their buildings to continue serving their communities.

Rosario Ibarra, Consultant for Disciples Church Extension Fund, will lead a one hour discussion on Saturday, September 18 at 10 am Pacific/ 11 am Mountain. Sign up on our website upcoming events page.

Governing Documents Re-imagined September 25 10:30– noon Pacific 11:30 to 1 Mountain

While you are re-imagining building use, you might also consider re-thinking your congregational governing documents. Every three years documents need an update because laws, congregation size, program needs all change. If you have not redone documents in the last few years, consider sending some people to a webinar on the topic led by Cathy Myers Wirt.