

**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

On the Way with Doug and Cathy
All meetings online or by phone

- Sept. 9 Scenic Rivers District Clergy Cathy
- Sept. 9 Blue Mountain Rivers District Clergy Cathy
- Sept. 2 North American/Pacific Asian Disciples Bd. Doug
- Sept. 2 Eugene FCC Meeting Cathy
- August 30 Salem FCC Preaching (recorded) Cathy/Doug
- August 26 Salem FCC Bible Study Doug
- August 26 Training for ALEX Data System Cathy
- August 25 Santiam District Clergy Cathy
- August 20 Murray Hills Board Meeting Cathy
- August 19-20 New Church Summit Doug
- August 16 Murray Hills Transition Committee Cathy
- August 16 Eugene FCC Leadership Meeting Cathy
- August 13 Murray Hills Interim Season Evaluation Cathy
- August 13 Scenic Rivers District Clergy Cathy
- August 12 Eugene FCC Transition Committee Cathy
- August 12 Disciples Seminary Foundation Ex. Cte. Doug
- August 12 College of Regional Ministers Cathy
- August 8 Anti Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Training Doug
- August 6 Murray Hills Exit Interview for Interim Cathy
- August 6 Snake River District Clergy Cathy



www.oidisciples.org P.O. Box 19466, Portland 97280



Disciples of Christ support ministries of racial equality through our Reconciliation Fund. Each year, we receive special offerings for the Reconciliation Ministry at the end of September and the beginning of October. Please watch email/website for Regional Church specific resources for inviting participation in this offering in 2020.

Gifts to the Reconciliation special offering are shared equally for use by regional and general church Reconciliation ministries. In the Pacific Northwest, these gifts have supported ministries such as Yakama Christian Mission in White Swan, Washington, Mision Sonora of the Portland Peniel congregation, immigration legal services through Disciples Home Missions and a series of anti-racism/pro-reconciliation trainings in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and online.

Many local congregations in the regional church will receive this special offering this fall. You can also give directly online at

<https://reconciliationministry.org/give/#page-part>

**TEMPORARY MAILING ADDRESS
FOR REGIONAL OFFICE**

Christian Church in Oregon SW Idaho
P.O. Box 19466
Portland, OR 97280



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News from our Congregations

Silverton: Gene Hill has begun ministry as Interim Pastor.

Northwood Springfield: Purchased land for a relocation of the congregation.

Medford: holding worship weekly on the back side of the church plant near their community garden plots.

The View: Two of the charter members of the congregation, Tom and Debbie Harry moving Florida. Both have been active members of the regional church for decades.

Murray Hills: Sandy Berry completed her Interim Ministry, and the Pastoral Search Committee has been appointed to interview candidates for the settled ministry.

Portland First: Hosting a book group online with three sections reading *How to Be an Anti-Racist*, by Ibram X. Kendi. Sign up on their website if you would like to join in.

Burley: Has ceased holding worship services, working with Christian Church Foundation staff, **Jerry Lang** in completing their ministry. Grateful for Jerry's ministry. He plans retirement for end of 2020.

Albany: Helping to provide laundry services for low and no income neighbors.

LaGrande: Held worship in parking lot. Shari Eggleston serves as Interim Minister.

Stay up to date

Hashtag #oidisciples

Facebook Page
*Christian Church in
Oregon and SW Idaho*

**Common Current
online news service**

Sign up at:
<http://www.oidisciples.org/news-c1h8s>





My Turn.....

Thank you to Oregon and Idaho Disciples for your faithfulness during this time of pandemic. Many church leaders, members, and pastors have responded with flexibility, calmness and faith to the many challenges the church has experienced. Disciples chaplains in hospitals, prisons, and hospice have answered their calling with increased difficulties in posts that were not easy to begin with. In many cases, financial stewardship has remained stronger than we could have predicted with both congregational support and mission giving.

Within the regional church, income and expenses have come down a bit but by equal proportions. Congregational giving to Disciples Mission Fund has done better than I might have guessed. Response to the Annual Fund appeal has been strong. For this, Cathy and I want to thank everyone, church by church and person by person. In consultation with regional board leaders, our main budget reduction has been in the area of Regional Minister travel. Currently, Cathy and I are not visiting onsite in congregations as we normally do. We miss seeing you and being in worship with you. I am woefully under my goals for potlucks per month!

Even more than for financial reasons, we are not visiting now in order to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. We have congregations in almost all of the counties in Oregon and Idaho with the highest infection rates. This is not a good time for us to go from place to place with stops at various public places in between. We are tired of the virus, but the virus is still extremely active and lethal across the United States.

As with congregations, the time of pandemic restrictions has moved us to try some things we might not have done otherwise in regional ministry. We have had Regional Assembly and a board meeting totally online, Camp in a Box, an online anti racism training with over seventy people, and a successful online offering for Covid-19 relief in Ecuador where FEDICE continues to do incredible work.

Thanks be to God, Oregon and Idaho Disciples, for all you've done already in 2020!

Doug



Women's events this fall

In the spring, our regional women's ministries held "pray and play" events in Albany and in Ontario. These were 2 of 6 planned events for the spring centered around the theme of resilient faith in hard times. We used the image of a cup of tea and the quotation from Eleanor Roosevelt, "People are like tea bags. You find out what people are made of when they get in hot water." Now, months later, we find that the theme of resilient faith in hard times was exactly what we would need to talk and pray about in 2020!

Watch our website, Facebook page, and our online newsletter for details of.....

- ◆ An online fair trade sale like Oregon women do at their retreat
 - ◆ A book group study on a novel TBA
 - ◆ A 2 hour online mini retreat October 17 with keynoter and workshops
 - ◆ A set of freestanding workshops on line throughout the fall.
- Details are in the works and will be sent out in early September for all events.

Making Congregational Budgets for 2021, Sept. 19

This fall, many congregations will look ahead to plan their finances for 2021. Although this is an annual process, this year presents more than the usual challenges. With uncertainty about the economy and the ability to conduct regular programs and worship services, planning ahead does not mean business as usual. Together with the Northern Lights and the Arizona regions, Christian Church in Oregon SW Idaho will host a special workshop on **September 19**.



This online event will begin at **10 am Pacific/ 11 am Mountain** time. Disciples Church Extension Fund consultant **Rosario Ibarra** will lead a one hour discussion on ***Budgeting and Stewardship for an Uncertain New Year***.

Rosario Ibarra has eight years of experience as a Church Extension consultant, plus a B.A. in Economics and a Master of Divinity degree. Her presentation will be followed by a time for questions and discussion by participants. Registration is on our website:

<https://www.oidisciples.org/news-clh8s>



COVID 19 Minga with FEDICE Ecuador

In May, at our online regional assembly, Blanca Puma, Director of FEDICE Ecuador, made us aware of the situation in Ecuador with the spread of the COVID 19 virus and the shortages of supplies in the rural communities with which we have been in partnership for over 2 decades. You rose to the occasion with an immediate offering of \$6,500 which received a strong match from the Disciples of Christ Global Ministries.

Over the past few months, deliveries have been made to many communities. You can see pictures and videos of the work in Ecuador on the FEDICE Facebook page and our website.

<https://www.oidisciples.org/fedice-updates>

<https://www.facebook.com/fedice.ecuador>

Website

Facebook

Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Training in Spanish

The next regional Anti Racism Pro Reconciliation training will be in Spanish. The event is scheduled online for September 25-26. Leaders will be Bernice Rivera, Leader Development Associate for the Oregon SW Idaho region, and Pedro Ramos-Goycolea, Pastor of Desert Dove Christian Church in Tucson, Arizona.

Participants from other regions will be invited to participate. This training is made possible by the giving of Oregon SW Idaho Disciples the Reconciliation Special Offering.

Registration will be through our website.

