



Regional Ministers' Report

Doug Wirt and Cathy Myers Wirt

February 5, 2022

Contacts since the last Regional Board meeting in November 2021

Ministerial Groups:

- College of Regional Ministers 3 times
- Scenic Rivers 3 times
- Columbia Gorge 3 times
- Blue Mountain Rivers 3 times

Zoom or Phone Conference Meetings

- New Church Team 2 times
- Nominating Committee 2 times
- Regional Elders 2 times
- EMO Bishops and Executives 1 time
- Disciples Seminary Foundation Committees/Board 1 time
- Anti-Racism Team 1 time
- Interchurch Center Board 1 time
- Commission on Finance and Administration 1 time
- FEDICE USA Board 1 time
- Church Camp Conversation with western districts 1 time
- Pastoral Relations Committee 1 time

Conversations with General Church Ministry Staff

Rosario Ibarra **Disciples Church Extension Fund**, Rick Reisinger **Disciples Church Extension Fund**, Monica Myers Greenberg **Christian Church Foundation**, Rebecca Hale **National Benevolent Association**, Vy Nguyen **Week of Compassion**, Caroline Hamilton-Arnold **Week of Compassion**, Marilyn Fiddmont, **Christian Church Foundation**, Bruce Barkhauer, **Office of Faith and Giving**, Rod Witte, **Pension Fund**

Work with Congregations since last meeting:

- **Search Process** with Silverton FCC, Rio de Dios Hillsboro, Lebanon FCC, Grants Pass FCC, Red Rock CC Boise
- **Property issues** with Glenwood CC Eugene, McMinnville FCC, Grants Pass FCC
- **Governing Documents** with Pendleton FCC, Dallas FCC, Silverton FCC

Congregational consultations other than the categories listed above:

Albany FCC, Nampa FCC, Allison Park CC, Hood River Valley CC, Murray Hills CC Beaverton

Events attended:

- November 10 FCC Grants Pass, Board meeting
- November 10-19 Virtual Pilgrimage to Ecuador with Global Ministries
- December 8 Getting 2021 Year End Tasks Right, Church Law and Tax Center
- December 18 Rio de Dios Farewell for Pastor Noelia Garcia
- January 4 Multnomah County Department of Health Webinar
- January 16 Grants Pass Farewell for Pastor Greg Widener
- January 19 Disciples Development Conference Christian Church Foundation

- January 29 Online Regional Disciples Women Event, 23 congregations participating
- January 31 Insurance Board Webinar, Trending Human Resources Issues in Churches
- February 2 Webinar on Refugee Resettlement in Oregon through Oregon Community Foundation

Since the November 2021 Regional Board meeting, we have spent the most time on pastoral transitions (Rio de Dios, Silverton, Grants Pass, Lebanon), the Global Ministries Virtual Pilgrimage to Ecuador (which was a great success!), and administrative duties. In December and January, we often have more time spent on administration because congregations are busy with the holidays, because several reports come due to the general church (General Board materials, ministerial standing records and the annual Yearbook data) and because we have donor records, Christmas offering and yearend financial tasks needing attention. Other administrative areas have included Regional Assembly details, the Regional Minister evaluations (thanks especially to Pam Knight for leading this again), and preparing to hire an Administrative Assistant.

We are happy to share with the board that Renee' Windsor-White has accepted the position of part time Administrative Assistant. This is a very part-time position averaging just eight hours per week. However, Renee' brings a wealth of experience to this role. She served for ten years as Executive Assistant to the President at Linn-Benton Community College in Albany, OR, five years in administration at Oregon State University and four years as the Office Manager in a local congregation. Many of you know that Renee' is active in regional women's ministries and that she is an ordained Disciples of Christ minister. Within the regional church she has provided short term pastoral coverage at Lebanon, Corvallis, Silverton and Murray Hills. She also served as Associate Regional Minister for the Christian Church in Oregon in the 1980s. Please join us in welcoming, Renee' to the regional staff! She will begin her duties on February 15, with an early focus on communications, electronic files, and support for the Annual Fund and Regional Assembly.

You will see in this meeting that First Vice Moderator Eric Eide has done a good deal of work in drafting a transition plan. We want to thank Eric for his work in this area. This does not mean that we have set a date for retirement for we have not. We do want the regional church to be prepared whenever that time arrives. As part of our earlier regional church Future Story vision planning, our regional staff has now added several part-time positions filled with people of high quality and commitment. Likewise, the Regional Minister staff time has reduced, as we had planned. After several years without an Administrative Assistant on staff, this latest hiring will continue the process of spreading out the staff responsibilities beyond your Co-Regional Ministers.

We do need to say a big "thank you" to Erik Free for his excellent leadership as Regional Moderator for the past two years. We are also grateful for those who complete their Regional Board service in May and for those who will continue. Never before has our board met entirely online for two years! We have missed seeing you in person and we also are impressed at how well you have worked together through the challenges of 2020-2022. The past two years give us a small reminder that the church of Jesus Christ has continued and sometimes even thrived in the midst of great obstacles for nearly two thousand years.

Our gratitude also goes to God and to Oregon SW Idaho Disciples for your financial support of regional ministries through the pandemic. While giving to Disciples Mission Fund has decreased a bit, the other categories of income have grown. So with your help, our purpose continues in building up each other and each ministry, that we as Disciples of Christ in the future may be "equipped for every good work (2 Tim. 3:16)."