

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

• Feb. 16	Pendleton, Worship, Committee Meeting	Cathy
• Feb. 15	LaGrande, Committee Meeting	Cathy
• Feb. 12	EMO Bishops and Execs. Lunch	Doug
• Feb. 11	Burley, Board Meeting	Cathy
• Feb. 9	Meridian, New Hope Christian Worship	Cathy
• Feb. 9	Portland, Midway Christian, Worship	Doug
• Feb. 9	Boise, Red Rock Worship, Listening Event	Cathy
• Feb. 7	Caldwell, Snake River District Clergy Lunch	Doug
• Feb. 7	Caldwell, Commission on Ministry	Doug
• Feb. 6	Beaverton, Murray Hills, Committee Mtg.	Cathy
• Feb. 5	Lynchwood, Committee Meeting	Cathy
• Feb. 3	Red Rock Visioning Meeting Planning	Cathy
• Feb. 3-4	Disciples Seminary Foundation Ex. Cte.	Doug
• Feb. 2	Albany, Worship, Cte Meeting	Cathy
• Feb. 1	Regional Board Meeting	Cathy/Doug
• Jan. 28	Finance Committee	Doug
• Jan. 28	Albany, Santiam Ministers' Breakfast	Doug
• Jan. 27	Silverton FCC, Elders Meeting	Cathy
• Jan. 26	Dallas FCC, Worship	Cathy
• Jan. 24-25	Commission on Ministry	Doug
• Jan. 22	Columbia Gorge Retired Ministers Lunch	Doug



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The Week of Compassion February offering each year gives us an opportunity to highlight this part of our shared ministry of disaster response, refugee resettlement and sustainable development ministries. Learn about this ministry by going to www.weekofcompassion.org.

This year as we ask our congregations, members, and friends to give to the offering, funds from Week of Compassion are flowing into our regional church at the same time. In early February, Pendleton experienced significant flooding. Through help from WOC staff, five grants were made totaling \$3,250 for families related to the congregation that sustained damage to their homes. This reminded me of other times WOC has been quick to respond to our events such as the forest fires near John Day and the flood in Vernonia a few years before that.

The Week of Compassion responds to disasters domestically and globally through local church organizations on the ground. Because of the annual offering, the WOC is ready to respond quickly. In addition to the emergency work WOC accomplishes, grants are made for sustainable development projects, and resources are made available to assist refugees globally. In the past WOC gave to FEDICE development projects like the ones that our regional church has supported in Ecuador.

In 2019 our regional church gave \$82,825 to the offering and \$8,716 to specific events/projects. We hope that we can surpass this amount in 2020.



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News from our Congregations

La Grande: Has called Shari Eggleston to serve as Interim Pastor starting in January.

Eugene FCC: Dan Bryant has announced a retirement date of Easter after 29 years as a Pastor for this congregation.

Keizer: Renee Windsor-White provided pulpit supply while Erik Free went on family leave to welcome a son, Henry.

Medford: Called Rev. Kaitlin Koeller as temporary part time Associate Minister.

Red Rock Boise: Held an African Food fund raiser with the Swahili Bible Study group that meets in the building to purchase Bibles.

Portsmouth Union: Received funding for affordable housing project!!!!

Silverton: Steve Knox, pastor for over 20 years, announced his retirement for July 2020.

Portland: Collecting food for Murray Hills food pantry.

Caldwell: Hosted the Snake River District Ministers' lunch.

Glenwood and McMinneville: Church buildings have new roofs.

Hood River Valley: Chimes Choir have new stoles made by a congregation member.

Principe de Paz: Meeting in a new location at Clackamas UCC Saturday evenings.

2020 Events

May 15-16, 2020

Regional Assembly
Salem,
FCC,
hosting



June 12-14, 2020

Wild Women of the West
Las Vegas, Nevada



Women's
Pray & Play
Events begin
In
soon!





My Turn.....

"It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." Matthew 13:32

The poet William Blake wrote about uncommon vision: "To see a World in a Grain of Sand/ And Heaven in a Wild Flower,/ Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand/ And Eternity in an hour."

Likewise, Jesus looked upon the mustard seed with uncommon vision. He compared heaven to the mustard seed, "the smallest of all the seeds." Seen with a longer view, the mustard seed has the power to grow far beyond its size, giving life to the birds of the air that they in turn may come and give life, making nest in its branches.

As the twentieth century came to a close, Disciples of Christ spoke of a 2020 Vision, a focus on mission championed by General Minister and President Dick Hamm. The 2020 vision included congregations open to transformation, our learning to be a pro-reconciling, anti-racist church, 1000 new church starts, and leadership training to accomplish these goals.

Over the past twenty years, we have pursued these goals as Disciples in Oregon and SW Idaho. Many congregations have changed and accepted new forms of missions. We've gathered for anti-racism workshops, trained new pastors, supported church planters, even changed the shape of how we see ourselves as a regional church.

Your prayers, your work, your gifts to Disciples Mission Fund and other forms of regional ministry support, have allowed small seeds and uncommon visions to grow and to make nests in many branches. Thanks to you, and thanks to God for all who share this mustard seed faith.

At the 2020 Regional Assembly, we will look at ways that our visions have taken shape and look for pathways that new visions can come into focus.

Save the dates of May 15-16 and plan to come to First Christian Church in Salem for Regional Assembly.

Doug

Watch for Future Story Evaluation Survey

The regional Future Story Team will launch a survey in the next few weeks inviting your feedback on the goals and directions of the regional church. At the **2014** Regional Assembly in Hood River, the participants engaged in the launching of a conversation about our regional church future direction with the help of Dick Hamm, our Consultant. Between that time and the **2016** Regional Assembly at Northwood CC, small group conversations were held in our five districts and linked by streaming service between the districts conversations. In 2018 Regional Assembly a progress report was given toward our goals.

In 2016 we launched a set of directions and intentions based on Acts 2:1-4 with three transitions targeted for regional life:

- ◆ Moving from living in a shared history to living into a shared future
 - ◆ Moving from indirect/institutional connections to individual/congregational relationship
 - ◆ Moving from Regional Staff Co-Ministers style to a Team Ministry style of leadership
- Learn more about our work toward these goals by going to the Future Story link on our

website. <http://www.oidisciples.org/about1-cy5v>



YOU ARE INVITED to our 4th Regional Assembly

*A Gathering of the Christian Church in Oregon and SW Idaho
(Disciples of Christ) Congregations and Friends*



May 15-16

*Growing
Into God's
Future
Together*

Worship = Workshops = Music = New Congregations Received

Hosted by Salem First Christian Church

Welcoming Claremont School of Theology to Oregon

Belva Brown Jordan, Jose Morales Jr Accept New Calls

Disciples Seminary Foundation has announced the calling of Rev. Belva Brown Jordan as Interim President, effective January 1, 2020. She currently serves as Dean of DSF and will follow DSF Acting President Dr. Jose' Morales, Jr., who enthusiastically affirmed her call. Rev. Brown Jordan has an extensive record in theological education, including service at Lancaster Theological Seminary, Harvard Divinity, and Phillips Theological Seminary, as well as time as an executive at Disciples Home Missions. DSF Board Chair Marilyn Fiddmont and Search Committee Chair Lori Tapia stated their strong confidence in her as DSF celebrates its 60th Anniversary of supporting students preparing for Disciples ministry. Rev. Belva Brown Jordan will preach at the Oregon SW Idaho Regional Assembly in May, hosted by Salem First Christian (see article above).



Rev. Dr. Jose' Morales, Jr. has accepted a call to a full time teaching position at Chicago Theological Seminary. He has held two positions recently in Claremont, as the Director of Pastoral Formation for Disciple Seminary Foundation and as a professor with Claremont School of Theology. At Chicago, Dr. Morales will become the Assistant Professor of Latinx Studies at the Chicago school He will continue with his present duties in Claremont until this next June.

Time for Annual Yearbook Reports

At the beginning of each year, the general office of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) asks each congregation to send in a report for the DOC Annual Yearbook. Information has been sent to congregations and more information can be found on the Disciples of Christ website at:

<https://disciples.org/yearbook/>



Plan now to attend

Watch our webpage for updates on workshops, displays, speakers and service projects.

Our hosts in Salem are well on their way to being ready for us!!

<http://www.oidisciples.org/2020-regional-assembly>