

**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**
- Jan. 13 Commission on Ministry
 - Jan. 9 Wild Women of the West Online Bible Study
 - Jan. 7 Murray Hills Personnel Committee
 - Jan. 7 Murray Hills Search Committee
 - Jan. 5 Eugene Transition Committee
 - Jan. 3 Portsmouth Union Groundbreaking
 - Jan. 2 Memorial for Claire Widener/Salem FCC
 - Dec. 30 Eugene FCC Governing Documents Committee
 - Dec. 29 Santiam River District Clergy
 - Dec. 28 Murray Hills CC Board Meeting
 - Dec. 27 Honored Minister Pin for Neil Allen, The View
 - Dec. 23 Murray Hills Search Committee
 - Dec. 17 Murray Hills Search Committee
 - Dec. 17 Snake River District Clergy
 - Dec. 16 College of Regional Ministers Holiday Party
 - Dec. 13 FEDICE USA Board Meeting
 - Dec. 10 Murray Hills Search Committee
 - Dec. 10 Scenic Rivers District Clergy
 - Dec. 9 Columbia Gorge District Clergy
 - Dec. 9 Blue Mountain Rivers District Clergy
 - Dec. 7 Eugene FCC Transition Committee



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A New Year

Ministers Boundary Training, Feb 27

The Commission on Ministry has scheduled a personal boundary training for ordained and commissioned ministers in the Oregon Southwest Idaho region. The training is required for continuing in good standing as an active ordained or commissioned minister. Ministers listed as inactive-retired are encouraged strongly to attend but are not required. The date is **Saturday, February 27, from 10 am to 3 pm Pacific time, 11 am to 4 pm Mountain time.**

The event on February 27 will include approximately two hours on personal, sexual boundaries for ministers and two hours on maintaining appropriate boundaries online with social media. There will be a lunch break between the two sessions.

Sign up is on line and includes a \$10.00 fee. The event will be led by Rev. Sandy Messick, Regional Minister of the Northern Lights Region. To learn more go to <https://www.oidisciples.org/news-clh8s> calendar link.

Changes for Regional Staff Time

The Regional Board has approved changes in regional staffing time for 2021. Effective January 1, Regional Minister staffing time will decrease from 1 3/4 positions to 1 1/3. Time and compensation for Regional Minister Doug Wirt will be on a 1/3 time basis, averaging 15 hours per week. Regional Minister Cathy Myers Wirt will continue on a full time basis. Staff time and compensation for Bernice Rivera as Leader Development Associate will increase slightly to 1/4 time. A combination of factors have made these changes necessary: 1) decreased giving to the Disciples Mission Fund during the pandemic; 2) A continuing pause on Regional Minister travel during the pandemic in 2021; and 3) Personal changes within the Regional Ministers' family. Regional staff will still be available for regular duties.

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2021**

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News from our Congregations

Portsmouth Union/Portland: Broke ground on a new building that will contain 20 units of affordable housing for their community. This land was available because they tore down their fellowship hall.

Nampa FCC and Murray Hills: Celebrated Christmas Eve services in their parking lots.

Grants Pass: Received a grant from Week of Compassion for the Reach Our Community Food Bank.

Salem FCC: Laurie Dyer completed her staff position coordinating ministry with children and families.

Mountain Home: Pastor Gary Allen completed his 22 year ministry.

La Grande FCC: Filled boxes again this year for Operation Christmas Child.

Medford, Salem, Albany, Portland FCC: Women from these congregations created an online Fair Trade Sale selling over \$1,500 of merchandise yielding for FEDICE Ecuador staff salaries over \$300.00. People from multiple congregations helped make this possible.

Hashtag #oidisciples

Facebook Page

*Christian Church in
Oregon and SW Idaho*

**Common Current
online news service**

www.oidisciples.org/news-clh8s



**Regional
Assembly
May 2022
Thank you Salem
First Christian
Church for
offering to host
this event**



At our 2014 Regional Assembly in Hood River, using the image of the interconnections of the rivers of our two states, we created districts, governing document revisions and moved into visioning our future together as a new regional church: Christian Church in Oregon and SW Idaho.

A set of goals/directions were brought from our visioning team to the 2016 Regional Assembly hosted by Northwood Christian Church.

With our goals set, interpretative materials posted, we moved through the 3-4 year cycle of these goals. Reports of progress were posted online and submitted to our regional board. An implementation committee met for the first 2.5 years into the goal cycle. A progress report on the future story plan was brought to the 2018 Regional Assembly in Portland.

We had hoped to come to 2020 Regional Assembly with a completion report from the future story. We had planned to enter into conversations about our future vision going forward as part of our May 2020 assembly. We found that we had met or exceeded all of the goals except one: to learn to use online technology more fully in creating and maintaining regional church relationships and events.

And then pandemic, wildfires, and new realities changed our trajectory. Our regional assembly, camps, board meetings, women's events, anti-racism training, fair trade sale, and monthly district clergy gatherings all went online and we reshaped ourselves into an online ministry almost overnight. So much for not meeting the technology goal for 2020!

Because we do not yet know fully what our parameters for ministry will be in 2021 and beyond, the decision was made to continue leaning into more work on the current goals and to create an evaluation tool that will help us to measure some of the impact of our work from 2014-2020. From there, later in 2021, we will begin the work of reshaping ourselves for the 2022-2025 years through a series of surveys, zoom meetings and conversations.

Our Vice-Moderator, Rev. Eric Eide, will help to lead in this effort. Please stay tuned for the details of this conversation and respond and participate in our discernment together as you are able. Learn more on our website: <https://www.oidisciples.org/about1-cy5v>

Trusting our future to the One who is already there to meet us when we arrive.....

In Hope, Cathy

FEDICE USA relationship to Regional Church

On November 7, 2020, the Regional Board approved FEDICE USA as a recognized ministry of the Oregon SW Idaho regional church. A recognized ministry is a non-congregational not for profit organization that works closely with the regional church. The regional church has recognized four organizations in this way:

- ◆ FEDICE USA
- ◆ Cascade Christian Church Camp (Idaho)
- ◆ Oregon Disciple Foundation
- ◆ Verne Catt McDowell Corporation (Albany).

As with Oregon Disciple Foundation, the regional church office will now provide limited administrative services to FEDICE USA.

FEDICE USA is the U.S. non-profit dedicated to supporting the work of FEDICE in Ecuador.

Bernice Rivera, Carol Cure and Doug Wirt are local board members for FEDICE USA.



News of our Pastoral Leadership

We give thanks to God for these ministers and special occasions in the regional church:

◆ **Northwood Christian Church** hosted an online Ordination service for **John P. Bowling, Jr.** on December 19. John has directed Northwood's youth ministries for nine years.

◆ **The View Christian Church** presented the Honored Minister's Pin to their former pastor **Neil Allen** on December 27. Luis Jara and Blanca Puma joined the celebration online from Ecuador.

◆ **Jerry Lang** began his retirement on Jan. 1, after serving as a local pastor, Global Ministries staff in Nigeria, and most recently, as our Mountain West Zone Vice President for **Christian Church Foundation**. **Monica Myers Greenberg** began her new role as our Christian Church Foundation Vice President effective January 1, 2021. She comes from a Disciples pastorate in Seattle and will continue to live there.

◆ **Geonyul Byeon** was approved by the Commission on Ministry as a Commissioned Theological Student, studying at Claremont seminary and serving at **Salem First Christian Church**.

◆ **First Christian Church in Albany** will hold an installation service for **Eric Eide** as their Associate Minister on January 31.

◆ **Eddie Harrod** and **Dow Cobb** have completed current Chaplaincy positions in the Eugene area to become Director of Hospice Ministry in Bellingham and a chaplain in Florence, Oregon respectively. **Ken Watts** is retiring from his Chaplain position in Boise, Idaho.

Save March 13 for Women's Online Event

Watch your email, our Disciples Women Facebook Page, and our regional church website for details of an upcoming online free of cost gathering for women in our Region.

Cathy Nichols of Global Ministries is helping to connect us to some global sisters for our time together. You won't want to miss it. Details will be announced soon.



Disciples of Christ NEW Data System



The Office of General Minister and President is leading the way to creating a new data management system for the our whole church. Congregational offices should have received

information about this directly. This system will help to streamline our data collection.

You can get a brief overview

You can learn more about the project

You can see a discussion about it

www.youtube.com/watch?v=oRa4AzDSgY

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

<https://youtu.be/HFRZtljeCYc>