

## **NEW CHURCH NEWS in Christian in Oregon and SW Idaho**



New church ministries for Disciples of Christ are either churches in formation or affiliating churches. **Churches in formation** have been with Disciples of Christ since their first day. **Affiliating churches** started before joining Disciples. After several years of ministry with Disciples, Disciples new church ministries may become **fully recognized congregations**.

**At the 2022 Regional Assembly, the Christian Church in Oregon Southwest Idaho recognizes three congregations that completed the “new church” process in 2020.** Six other new churches are in ministry as affiliating churches or churches in formation.

### **FULLY RECOGNIZED CONGREGATIONS**

**Iglesia Nueva Vida** began working with Disciples in 2011. Meeting in Gresham, Nueva Vida primarily reaches out to Spanish speaking people. The church also has bilingual services because some of the newly attending people are English speaking. Nueva Vida works to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, while affirming dignity and healing, and working with poverty issues. The name “nueva vida” tells of the new life believers share in Christ. Nueva Vida is active in Obra Hispana, a national Disciples of Christ ministry. Pastor Carlos Bernier is the representative of the Northwest Convention in the Hispanic Board. Iglesia Nueva Vida held an in-person worship service for the National Obra Hispana Board last December. The church also hosted a very successful Regional Hispanic men’s retreat last August. The church is raising money for the potential purchase of a building. Sarah Otero provides pastoral and administrative leadership for the church along with her husband Pastor Carlos Bernier.

**Pacific Islands Family Church** ministers with Chuukese families in Portland. Affiliated with Disciples since 2015, PIFC meets at Midway Christian Church in SE Portland. The church encourages healthy self-esteem and works with many people in transition from moving either within the U.S. or from Micronesia where rising ocean levels threaten the way of life. The church also deals with the losses of families dealing with issues post immigration. **“We are a family-oriented Church in Jesus Christ,” says Kikuo Yerem, pastor.** PIFC has hosted national Chuukese Christian rallies and has participated in the Regional Assembly and North American Pacific Asian Disciples. PIFC works hard to start new ministries, with an outreach in Vancouver dedicated on May 1, 2022.

**Portsmouth Union Church** is a new church with dual denominational affiliation – United Methodist and Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ). Like PIFC, Portsmouth began its journey with Disciples in 2015. As an affiliating new church, the St. John’s Community Church joined ministries with University Park Methodist Church to form a federated church, Portsmouth Union Church. This new church has devoted itself to building affordable housing on the church property, removing the Fellowship Hall to make this possible. After founding pastors Andy Goebel and Jules Nielsen completed their ministry, Shari Eggleston became the interim pastor in 2021. In partnership with Portland City Council, PUC is a homeless shelter facility during the winter months. PUC’s interim pastor, Shari Eggleston, shares, *“The 20-unit affordable housing apartments on PUC’s property are scheduled to open this summer.”* PUC provides a weekly lunch ministry with the houseless community, as well as providing a 24/7 outdoor food pantry.