

**Mission Statement
of the Region**

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
Audre Bratcher,
Administrative Assistant

On the Way with Doug and Cathy

- Jan. 30 Women's Pray and Play Planning Mtg. Cathy
- Jan. 30 New Church Team Meeting Doug
- Jan 31 Regional Nominating Committee Cathy/Doug
- Feb. 1 Regional Board Meeting Doug/Cathy
- Feb. 2 Murray Hills, Worship Doug
- Feb. 2 Lynchwood, Installation Neil Allen Cathy
- Feb. 5 Columbia Gorge Ministers Meeting Cathy
- Feb. 6-8 College of Regional Ministers, Indianapolis Doug
- Feb. 8-11 General Board Meeting, Indianapolis Doug
- Feb. 12 Ecumenical Ministries Board Meeting Doug
- Feb. 12 Women's Prayer Circle Cathy
- Feb. 13 Garden Build Planning, Springfield Cathy
- Feb. 13 Bishops and Executives Lunch Doug
- Feb. 15-16 Middle School Retreat, Lynchwood Cathy/Doug
- Feb. 16 Commissioning of Kim & Erik Free Doug/Cathy
- Feb. 17 Lynchwood Transition Committee Cathy
- Feb. 19 Eugene Ministers Lunch Doug
- Feb. 20 Garden Building Planning, Salem Cathy
- Feb. 22 Vision Team with Dick Hamm Cathy/Doug
- Feb. 23 Worship Portland First Cathy
- Feb. 25 Santiam Ministers Doug



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Volume 1 Issue 2

Regional Assembly

Plans continue to take shape for our **May 2-3** Regional Assembly in Hood River. Disciples from SW Idaho and Oregon will come together in our new region for the first time.

Rebecca Hale of National Benevolent Association, Blanca Puma from FEDICE in Ecuador, and Dick Hamm of the Columbia Partnership will address the assembly on themes of congregational life and effective local and global witness. Our **Regional Ministers, Doug and Cathy Wirt**, will share good news with us on Saturday morning in worship.

Registration materials will be on line March 1 and sent by postal service the first week of March. In the meantime, we hope you will remind people to plan to make attendance a priority. We will offer group discounts to congregations with higher registration numbers.

Hotels can fill up that time of year, so consider **making reservations now**. While we have no "headquarter" hotel, we do recommend to you Vagabond Lodge 877.386.2992; Comfort Suites 541.308.1000; Riverview Lodge 541.386.8719, or Best Western Plus Hood River Inn 541.386.2200. There are also comfortable hotels in The Dalles for lesser prices but with a 23 mile commute to Hood River.

The schedule for the event is on our website and lists of the workshops will be posted later in March as well as an invitation for singers to form a "regional choir" for the worship time on Saturday afternoon. Youth activities are in the works for middle and high school youth. Stay tuned! Childcare available during the sessions.

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News from the Congregations

Lynchwood: Thank you for hosting middle school retreat for 29 youth from 9 congregations!
Nampa: New pastoral mentoring program with help of a special grant.
Silverton: Preparing to serve the 100,000th meal in their ministry of Community Dinners.
The View: Neil Allen and Shari Eggleston serving as Co-Pastors.
Eugene First: Housed over 150 people Saturday night of the big snow storm in warming shelter.
Forest Grove and Murray Hills Each held successful youth fundraiser auctions.

Portland First: Thank you for hosting Erik and Kim Free Missionary Commissioning in February!
LaGrande: Enjoying a growing children's after-school ministry.
Red Rock Boise: Starting a new new Bible Study exploring the names of God.
Trees of Righteousness: Holding Pastor Appreciation and seven year anniversary celebration April 5, in the evening.

Save these dates!

- March 21-23 Murray Hills**
Worship & Wonder Training
- March 22 Burley**
Women's Fellowship Event
- March 29 Red Rock Boise**
Women's Fellowship Event
- April 5 Lynchwood**
Women's Pray and Play Day
- April 5-6 Silverton**
High School Regional Prom
- May 2 Hood River**
Conversation with Dick Hamm
- May 2-3 Hood River**
Regional Assembly
- May 17 Allison Park**
Women's Pray and Play Day
- May 18 Grants Pass**
Women's Pray and Play Day

Regional Assembly
Hosted by Hood River Valley Christian
May 2-3, 2014



My Turn

Your regional church has enjoyed a couple of visits recently from our former General Minister and President Dick Hamm. In November, Dick met with our Regional Board via Skype. Then in February, he came in person for the first session with our Vision Team. We left both sessions encouraged about the season of prayers and conversations that will soon begin.

Dick Hamm will lead Oregon and SW Idaho Disciples in a three part visioning process. This involves prayers and conversations around the themes of a) what do you like most about our regional church ministries; b) what would you change if you could; and c) how would you see us responding together to God's calling five years from now?

On the afternoon of Friday, May 2, Dick will introduce this process and invite your own participation during a pre-session at the Regional Assembly. We will also have other times when Disciples can participate in their local area and on line conversations. The Vision Team will help to encourage maximum input throughout the region and then report to the regional board.

Who's on this Vision Team? A couple people from each of our five districts: Brian Ponzar (Medford), Eliza Drummond (Eugene), Sue Perotti (Nampa), Jarid McCool (Burley), Agustin Martinez (Salem), Matt Gordon (Corvallis), Cheryl Hudson (La Grande), Stacy Shelton (Ione), Milele Hobbs (Portland), David DeBow (Junction City) and Neil Allen (Portland). God has blessed us with a willing and capable team of leaders. At our first session, one person flew in from Idaho and another Skyped in from Hawaii. Paul says in Philippians 1:8, "If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me." Let this be our hope and prayer as people, as Disciples on a mission together.

Doug

Regional Prom, April 5-6



Registration materials will soon be in congregational mailboxes and posted on regional website.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!

Last Call for Quadrennial Scholarship Applications

The regional budget for 2014 contains a line item for 8 scholarships remaining of \$200 each to women from the Oregon/SW Idaho Region that hope to attend the Quadrennial Assembly in Atlanta, Georgia June 25-29, 2014. Application for this scholarship is on our web site: www.oidisciples.org under the women's link. **Applications are due by April 1.**

Quadrennial Assembly is a gathering of Disciples women from around the world scheduled every four years. The time is filled with wonderful worship, interesting workshops, and time to meet your sisters from around the church. If you are interested in going, contact our office or go to the home page for this event: <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/dhm/dhm-ministries/disciples-women/quadrennial-assembly-home-page/>.



Kim & Erik Free Depart for Mozambique March 9

First Christian Church in Portland hosted a commissioning service for Kim and Erik Free on the afternoon of Sunday, February 16. Evelyn Harry, former Global Ministries missionary in Japan, spoke at the service to share blessings, advice and a farewell. Lillian Moir, who served as a Global Ministries missionary in Swaziland, also attended. The Frees presented a scroll given to the regional church as a gift from Christians in China, during their short term mission assignment there in the summer of 2012.

The Frees leave for a four year assignment in Mozambique on the evening of Sunday, March 9. Any who would like to see them off from the Portland airport are welcome to come. The regional board has voted to enter a missionary partnership relationship with the Frees, joining with the Northwest region as Disciples giving special attention and prayer support to their work.



Women's Pray and Play Retreat Days

Pray and Play days are three hour mini-retreat experiences for Disciples Women. **The next one is at Lynchwood Christian Church, April 5, from 9:30—12:30.** Registration materials are available on website or by calling our office at 503.226.7648. **Cost is \$15.00.** The theme invites women into the Biblical book of Acts and explores ways that women can act out their faith in daily life and prayer. Fee covers materials a special gift.

Save the Dates Sept 19-20 for a Stewardship Event

This fall, Bruce Barkhauer will visit our region, Sept. 19-21. Bruce serves as Minister for Faith and Giving of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the U.S. and Canada. He has created the Disciples Center for Faith and Giving to teach Christian stewardship and to support the stewardship ministries of our congregations. Bruce will lead a Friday night/Saturday workshop for both clergy and lay leaders. Jerry Lang, Vice President for the Mountain West Zone of the Christian Church Foundation, will also come to lead the program. Meet them at our upcoming Regional Assembly in Hood River, May 2-3.



Visits Here and There

Blanca Puma, Executive Director of the FEDICE ministry in Ecuador will visit in the Oregon-SW Idaho region in early May. She will attend the Regional Assembly in Hood River, May 2-3 and will visit in congregations during the following week.

During Blanca's visit, you can learn more about our latest shared project with FEDICE. In the community of Romerillos, Cotapaxi province, FEDICE works with a local church for training of people to grow onions and to raise cows, sheep and pigs. Our regional board has approved a goal of \$15,000 to support this project at Romerillos and technical consulting from FEDICE staff. Currently, we have received the first \$3,000 toward this goal.

This spring, Pastor Hector Curiel and his daughter Tonia of Peniel Ministries in Portland, will visit the FEDICE office in Quito and projects in the communities. Pastor Curiel will be happy to share information about his visit when they return to Oregon. Bethany Waggoner has arrived in Ecuador to begin training for her work with FEDICE in the coming year. She's off to a great start and living with an Ecuadoran family.