



Regional Ministers' Report

Doug Wirt and Cathy Myers Wirt

June 4, 2022

Contacts since the last Regional Board meeting in February 2022

Ministerial Groups:

- College of Regional Ministers 4 times
- College of Regional Ministers By-Laws Committee 3 times
- College of Regional Ministers Nominating Committee 1 time
- Scenic Rivers 2 times
- Blue Mountain Rivers 3 times

Zoom or Phone Conference Meetings

- New Church Team 3 times
- Disciples Seminary Foundation Committees/Board 2 times
- Executive Committee of Regional Board 2 times
- FEDICE USA Board – bylaws review 2 times
- Anti-Racism Team 1 time
- Interchurch Center Board 1 time
- Commission on Finance and Administration 1 time
- Pastoral Relations Committee 1 time
- Church Camp Conversation 1 time
- Regional Assembly Local Arrangements Committee 1 time

Conversations with General Church Ministry Staff

Rosario Ibarra **Disciples Church Extension Fund**, Monica Myers Greenberg **Christian Church Foundation**, Rebecca Hale **National Benevolent Association**, Vy Nguyen **Week of Compassion**, Raiza Spratt **Week of Compassion**, Bruce Barkhauer, **Center for Faith and Giving**, Rod Witte, **Pension Fund**, Angele Johnson **Disciples Women**, Blanca Puma, **FEDICE Ecuador**, Belva Brown Jordan, **Moderator of the Christian Church (DOC)** Dean Phelps, **Office of General Minister and President**

Work with Congregations since last meeting:

- **Search Processes, multiple contacts:** Silverton FCC, Lebanon FCC, Grants Pass FCC, Red Rock CC Boise, Albany FCC
- **Property issues** with Glenwood CC Eugene, McMinnville FCC, Grants Pass FCC, Nueva Vida, Gresham
- **Governing Documents** with Silverton FCC (4 times)

Congregational consultations other than the categories listed above:

Albany FCC (9 meetings or conversations), Hood River Valley CC, Murray Hills CC Beaverton (2 contacts for two matters), Northwood CC Springfield (annual mission committee check in), Portland FCC (online study group),

Communications Sent:

- 4 newsletters
- **Constant Contact mailings:** 24 emails for Regional Assembly details/Bible Study, 9 emails to Regional Board, 8 emails to prayer concerns list, 4 emails about women's ministries, 3 general information emails to the large email list, 1 email appeal for Week of Compassion offering, 2 email appeals for Pentecost offering
- **Facebook Page posts:** 53 posts to regional Facebook page, 27 posts to regional women's ministry Facebook page

Events attended:

- February 11-14 General Board Christian Church (DOC) United States & Canada
- February 26 Eugene FCC Pastoral Installation Zane Ridings, Preached
- March 18-19 Kirkpatrick Lectures, Disciples of Christ Historical Society
- March 26 Wild Women of the West Online Gathering
- May 1 Pacific Islands Family Church, Vancouver
- May 20-21 Regional Assembly, Salem FCC
- May 22 Salem FCC Presentation of Honored Minister Pin for Joyce Frame

This time of year brings many transitions in the form of graduations and other changes. Two Disciples in the regional church (Geonyul Byeon and Chuck Varner) just graduated from Claremont School of Theology. One of our own regional board members, Sophia Berger, is a high school graduate in the Class of 2022. As is often true, we have pastoral transitions in congregations happening now, including Eric Eide's call to serve as Pastor at Silverton First Christian Church. With our Regional Board membership, we also have transitions happening. Erik Free has completed his term as Moderator, while Pam Knight now begins her time of leading the board. At the Regional Assembly, we gave thanks for regional leaders finishing and beginning their service on the board. As Psalm 121:8 says, may "God bless your coming in and your going out, both now and forevermore."

We had the joy at Regional Assembly of celebrating three congregations moving from "new church" to "fully recognized congregation" status. Iglesia Nueva Vida, Pacific Islands Family Church, and Portsmouth Union Church have ministered with Disciples for many years now. Five other new and affiliating congregations continue their ministries, while we have the prospect of two other new ministries getting started. We also celebrated the stewardship of our great cloud of witnesses, including First Christian Church Burley, whose Christian stewardship extends blessings to the church even now after the congregation has completed its "visible ministry."

The Regional Assembly reminded us of the fullness of our community as Oregon and Southwest Idaho Disciples. Over 170 registered participants and probably a good number more unregistered came in person to First Christian Church in Salem on May 20-21. More than 60 people participated online, including two of the featured speakers. Preparations for the Assembly illustrated the gifts of our regional staff, who worked together so well in their different roles. Thank you to Reneé, Bernice, Liz and Stacy! In spite of just joining our staff, Reneé performed heroically to sort out all the details. Bernice, Liz and Stacy came through admirably as we knew they would do. Thank you also to the Local Arrangements Committee at Salem FCC and the FCC staff who did so much. Like graduations, Regional Assembly programs take a huge amount of preparations, followed by a gathering that goes by so quickly.

Your Regional Ministers have also completed certain responsibilities. Doug has come off of the board of Disciples Seminary Foundation after four years, and out of the board chair's role for the Interchurch Center. Cathy is completing a term as Nominating chair for the College of Regional Ministers and has completed a committee assignment to rework the bylaws of the College. On the other hand, some new duties will soon begin. Soon we expect to welcome an Interim Minister to our north in the Northern Lights regional church. Doug will serve on the Executive Director Search Committee for Disciples Seminary Foundation. We will begin new pastoral search processes soon on several congregations. And Cathy will start mentoring a youth who lives across the street as her very own Baking Buddy!

The fall will bring several new events such as Bruce Barkhauer's ministry with the Office of Faith and Giving, a series of four online conversations called "Tulsa Talks," based on the Disciples Historical Society event at Tulsa this past March, and a fall regional women's retreat planned to be in person in Beaverton for the first time since 2019.

Most of you know that someone has created false email addresses using the name of Doug Wirt. The scam tries to get gift cards sent electronically by unsuspecting people. If you receive such a message, please report it as spam and do not respond with a reply.

We do plan to have a legitimate Annual Fund campaign this summer to raise funds for regional ministries. Online giving is possible through our website or by sending a check in the mail. For this kind of support, your support through Disciples Mission Fund and the Christmas Offering, we do give thanks. As Regional Board members, we also appreciate your advocating for congregational and individual support for the ministries we share. Likewise, your time, ideas, skills and energy are sacred offerings to God, received gratefully each time that we will gather as the Regional Board of the Christian Church in Oregon and SW Idaho. We praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Doug and Cathy Myers Wirt
Regional Ministers