

**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

All meetings above the line were online or phone

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| • April 14 | Farewell Event Dan Bryant Eugene FCC | Cathy |
| • April 14 | Disciples Seminary Foundation Finance cte | Doug |
| • April 14 | Oregon Disciple Foundation Board | Doug |
| • April 8 | Blue Mountain Rivers District Clergy | Cathy |
| • April 6 | Interregional Camping Ministry | Cathy |
| • April 6 | Week of Compassion Ex. Cte. | Cathy |
| • April 5 | Lynchwood Congregational Meeting | Cathy |
| • April 3 | Webinar CARES Act Applications | Doug |
| • April 2 | Murray Hills Board Meeting | Cathy |
| • March 31-Apr 1 | Western Regional Ministers | Cathy/Doug |
| • March 25 | Regional Executive Cte | Doug/Cathy |
| • March 22 | Lynchwood Board Meeting | Cathy |
| • March 20 | Disciples Seminary Fdtn, Exec Cte | Doug |
| • March 16 | Pastoral Relations Cmte. | Cathy/Doug |
| • March 15 | Boise/Red Rock, Visioning Team | Cathy |
| • March 15 | Caldwell, Worship | Cathy |
| • March 14 | Ontario, Pray and Play | Cathy |
| • March 12 | Interchurch Center Board | Doug |
| • March 10 | New Church Ministry Team | Doug |
| • March 10 | Oregon Disciple Foundation | Doug |



Volume 7 Issue 3

www.oidisciples.org 0245 SW Bancroft Suite F, Portland 97239

Changes for Regional Assembly

The Executive Committee of the Regional Board has decided to change the timing and format for our Regional Assembly in 2020.

Instead of meeting in person at Salem First Christian Church, May 15-16, the Assembly will meet online only on Saturday, May 16, and will plan another day of gathering, to be either online or in person in September 2020.

Due to continuing concerns about the Covid-19 virus, many regions, including Oregon SW Idaho, have changed their spring Assembly plans. **More information will come out about this by May 1.**

Please save the date of Saturday, May 16, starting at 10:00 a.m. to participate in an online gathering of the 2020 Regional Assembly.

The Regional Board will meet, either online or in person (also to be determined) on Saturday, June 6. The board will confirm a date and a format for the second regional church gathering to be held in September. Watch our newsletter, Constant Contact emails, website or Facebook page for updates.



TEMPORARY MAILING ADDRESS FOR REGIONAL OFFICE (through August 31)

Christian Church in Oregon SW Idaho
P.O. Box 19466
Portland, OR 97280



Summer Camp Updates 2

New Pastors in Three Congregations 3

FEDICE Zoom Call 3

News from Congregations 4



News from our Congregations

Medford & Grants Pass: Both congregations did drive in worship on Easter Sunday in their parking lots.

Mountain Home/New Hope: streaming worship services

Principe de Paz: has begun a radio ministry

Portland FCC: continuing to provide showers and food to houseless neighbors downtown during “stay at home” orders

Salem FCC: outdoor station for handwashing available for use by houseless neighbors to prevent spread of virus.

Murray Hills: continuing food pantry during pandemic using physical distancing protocols.

Eugene FCC: retirement of Rev. Dr. Dan Bryant after 29 years at FCC.

John Day: meeting for worship using Skype.

Pendleton: worship attendance increase since putting services online!

The View: meeting by video conference for worship.

Corvallis: Youth did an Easter Caravan to view displays made by church members.

Springfield/Burley/Glenwood: Joint online worship service.

Ontario: THANK YOU for hosting Pray and Play!

Nampa: adapting methods to continue feeding those in need.

Stay Tuned!!

Date To Be Announced:
Zoom call with Blanca Puma and Luis Jara from **FEDICE Ecuador** mission partners

Watch our Facebook page and Website for details of our **May 16 Regional Assembly Online—starting at 10 a.m.**

Your **Regional Board** will meet on June 6. Watch for reports of their work.

Watch for information about the **Wild Women of the West May 2** online gathering for women in the western regional churches.



My Turn.....

During our first year of marriage, Cathy and I lived in downtown Portland as Mt. St. Helens began to rumble. Scientists and others became more and more concerned about a volcanic eruption. One Sunday morning in May, the mountain blew its top! In spite of the warnings, one man who lived by the mountain refused to move. After the eruption, he was never seen or heard from again.

Cathy and I want to thank Oregon and Idaho Disciples and Disciples in the general church for how they have responded to the coronavirus pandemic. Unlike the man who ignored the geologists' warnings at Mt. St. Helens, our congregations have and leaders have taken the coronavirus warnings seriously. We have moved worship services online from our usual houses of worship. Many congregations have found creative ways to keep connected with each other, to continue worship in new ways and to look to the needs of their local communities. The holdout at Mt. St. Helens affected mainly his own health. With this virus today, we can't tell how many lives could be affected by any one person or gathering.

As Disciples, we love to get together to worship, to share communion, and often to eat. Acts 2 says that from the earliest days, the church gathered for prayers, teaching and for the breaking of bread. However, in 1 Corinthians 11, Paul says that sharing communion and fellowship without concern for the community defeats the purpose. If we were to "commune" without concern for the "community," Christians would "eat and drink judgment upon themselves (1 Cor. 11:29)." So thank you to all of the many pastors, church leaders and congregations who have gone to great lengths this spring in trying to slow the spread of the coronavirus. You've been truly amazing! God only knows how many you may have helped.

The general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have responded to this worldwide crisis in many ways. You can find resources at <https://disciples.org/dns/disciples-and-covid-19/>. Here in the Oregon SW Idaho region, Disciples are responding through the Pastors' Emergency Fund and the Pentecost offering. Please continue to pray and to support your local congregation and the Disciples response in the days ahead.

Doug

Church Camp Considerations

After long and careful consideration by camp staff, volunteers and in consultation with the camp grounds we rent for camps, we have made decisions about the summer programming.

Kids Camp at Nampa FCC and the camps to be held at Cascade Camp in Idaho have been canceled for the 2020 season.

The directors and regional staff that work with camps that are hosted by Suttle Lake Methodist camp are meeting this week to consider summer programming options.

Other regional churches around the country are with us in conversation. Bi-weekly zoom calls are being held with regional leaders. Our last call had over 50 participants on the zoom screen. Those that own camp grounds are adapting to camp cancellation by renting their space to county municipalities to house foster kids in one instance and another is housing frontline first responders sheltering away from family. Please hold these conversations in your prayers.



Three New Pastors Called in March/April

Welcome

Three churches have called new ministers, even during the time when they could not gather in the building for worship. Search/transition teams at each of these congregations are to be commended for their adaptations and excellent leadership.

First Christian Church, Eugene, has called **Jerri Handy** as Interim Co-Minister. Jerri has served previously as Pastor of The View Christian Church in Portland, as Associate Minister at the United Church of Christ in San Mateo, CA, as a Global Mission Worker in Tijuana, and in a variety of non-profit settings.

First Christian Church in Albany has called **Eric Eide** as Associate Minister. Eric had been serving as Interim Associate Minister at FCC Albany after a pastorate at the Perseverance Christian Church in Dundas, VA.

Lynchwood Christian Church has called **Giuseppe Amato** as their new Pastor. Giuseppe comes from serving as Associate Minister at Cedar Hills United Church of Christ in Beaverton. Years ago, he served as Youth Minister at University Christian Church in Boise.

In each case, the congregation had to adapt their usual method of having a congregational meeting, due to the social distancing and stay at home requirements in place for Oregon. We send our congratulations to each pastor and congregation as these new ministries begin.

Zoom Call with Blanca and Luis

The change of our plans for Regional Assembly means that our FEDICE friends, Blanca Puma and Luis Jara will not be visiting Oregon and Idaho in May. You can still see them and hear from them directly about the FEDICE ministry in Ecuador. We will schedule a Zoom call with our global mission partners this spring. With this, you can see them and talk with them using a computer or telephone near you.

If you would like to be part of this call, please send an email to Doug Wirt, doug@oidisciples.org, by April 24. We will then arrange the best time for interested parties to meet.

The coronavirus has hit Ecuador extremely hard, especially in the port city of Guayaquil. The country has a nationwide curfew and travel restrictions, with very few flights to the U.S. In our call, Blanca and Luis will share about the continuing work of FEDICE in the rural communities and in Quito. The date and calling information for the call will be sent to Oregon and Idaho Disciples who wish to join in on the call.



June WWOW Event postponed to 2022

Because of concerns about the COVID 19 virus pandemic, the June Wild Women of the West event in Las Vegas has been postponed.

Our regional church had almost 50 women signed up to participate in this event, and one of our own, Raiza Cintron from Murray Hills, has served as the Co-Chair of the Planning Committee. We look forward to what will come next.

