

**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 and In Person with Doug and Cathy**
- ◆ Dec. 8 Interchurch Center Steering Committee
 - ◆ Dec. 7 Commission on Ministry
 - ◆ Dec. 1 Disciples Home Mission Leadership Team on zoom
 - ◆ Dec. 1 Albany FCC Pastoral Search Cte on zoom
 - ◆ Nov. 30 Western Regional Ministers Zoom
 - ◆ Nov. 29 Red Rock CC Pastoral Search Cte. On zoom
 - ◆ Nov. 28 Disciples Seminary Foundation Executive Search
 - ◆ Nov. 27 Salem FCC Worship, in person
 - ◆ Nov. 20 Lynchwood CC, Preaching in person
 - ◆ Nov. 19 FEDICE USA Board Meeting on zoom
 - ◆ Nov. 16 Lynchwood CC Governing Documents Committee
 - ◆ Nov. 13 Albany FCC, Preach in person, Search Cte. meeting
 - ◆ Nov. 10 Albany FCC Pastoral Search Committee on zoom
 - ◆ Nov. 10 Scenic Rivers District Pastors zoom
 - ◆ Nov. 9 Tulsa Talks 3 on zoom
 - ◆ Nov. 9 College of Regional Ministers zoom
 - ◆ Nov. 9 Disciples Home Mission Leadership Team zoom
 - ◆ Nov. 8 Red Rock CC Pastoral Search Committee zoom
 - ◆ Nov. 7 Continuing Education Phillips Seminary zoom
 - ◆ Nov. 7 Columbia Gorge District Pastors' Zoom
 - ◆ Nov. 6 Murray Hills CC worship in person



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**December
2022**

Volume 8 Issue 8

Advent Blessings...

**From your
Regional
Church
Staff**



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News from our Congregations

- Caldwell, Treasure Valley:** Providing land for building of veterans' housing facility
- Principe de Paz:** Pastors Gustavo and Leticia Oregel moved to California.
- Portsmouth Union:** Nearing celebration and opening of the affordable housing project.
- Medford:** Starting a knitting and crocheting group to make warm up items for local shelters.
- Albany:** had a booth to cheer on local veterans on parade day.
- Portland Area Congregations** training together to welcome refugees

- Red Rock Boise:** Women holding a winter clothing drive with local agency.
- Pacific Outreach, Boise** Dedication of new leader led by Pastor Kikuo Yerem of Portland.
- Grants Pass:** completion of revised bylaws.
- Ione:** Wednesday night youth group
- Pendleton:** The Faithful Comfort Crafters make quilts and give them to local children.
- Murray Hills:** Nativities display, December 15-18.

**Hashtag #oidisciples
Facebook Page**
*Christian Church in
Oregon and SW Idaho*
**Common Current
online news service**
www.oidisciples.org/news-clh8s



- Liz Cronin*
- Bernice Rivera*
- Stacy Shelton*
- Renee Windsor-White*
- Cathy Myers Wirt*
- Douglas A. Wirt*

Christmas Offering for Regional Ministries Received in December
See page two or www.oidisciples.org

This has been an eventful year for the Christian Church in Oregon and SW Idaho as we continued to stretch into our future witness together as a Regional Church. The theme for this year's Christmas Offering for Regional Ministry, "Repeat the Sounding Joy" gives us the invitation to repeat some of the highlights of our ministry together in 2022.



Together we:

- Held our first in person Regional Assembly since 2018, hosted by Salem FCC;
- Offered women's retreats in person in Idaho and Oregon and 3 events online;
- Convened 3 conversations online facilitated by our Anti-Racism Team to discuss the lectures of the March 2022 Kirkpatrick Conference, examining the history of the Disciples of Christ movement from a multicultural framework;
- Nurtured pastors toward ordination and supported our Commissioned Ministers;
- Provided boundary training for Pastors on the theme of financial ethics;
- Assisted 10 congregations in some way through the pastoral search and call process or recruiting of pulpit supply preachers
- Supported clergy families in times of transition or special needs;
- Gave resources to multiple congregations in reframing of governing documents, property matters, and personnel policies;
- Our Regional Elders provided presence and care to our retired pastors and specialized ministries pastors (chaplains and counselors);
- Gave bookkeeping and fundraising/board support to FEDICE Ecuador through a new FEDICE USA organization;
- Provided an online Stewardship Training for leaders;
- Formally recognized at our Regional Assembly three of our newest congregations, one from each of our languages of worship...Spanish, Chuukese, English, and provided support to emerging congregations through our New Church Team and Leadership Associate on staff.

We look forward to our shared ministry together 2023. The Christmas offering is the one time each year we receive the full amount of an offering for Regional Church ministries. You can learn more and/or give on line at www.oidisciples.org/christmas-offering-1

DSF Executive Search Started

Disciples Seminary Foundation provides ministry education scholarships for Disciples in the western United States. DSF works ecumenically with seminary partners: Claremont School of Theology, Pacific School of Religion, San Francisco Theological Seminary, and Iliff School of Theology in Denver. Dr. Belva Brown Jordan has led the DSF staff very effectively during an interim period between longer term Executive Directors. You may recall that she spoke at the Regional Assembly in Salem last May.



The DSF board has appointed an Executive Director Search Committee to recommend a successor to Dr. Brown Jordan. The board has designated Regional Minister Doug Wirt to chair the Executive Director Search Committee. The National Benevolent Association will provide coaching and administrative support to the search effort. Your gifts to our Disciples Mission Fund provide support for DSF, NBA and the regional church. Thank you for your support!



January 28, 2023 Online with Disciples Women

Disciples Women in our regional church will gather online under the theme: *The Women We Don't Always Hear About.*

We will welcome two special guests:

- Bible Study Leader, **Sharon Watkins**, former General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and most recently pastor of Christian Church in Bethany, WV.
- Presenter, **Mikah Neff**, member Lynchwood Christian Church and

Communications Coordinator for Raphael House Portland, an agency that assists people impacted by domestic violence

The event will be the launch of our regional church's participation in a denomination wide Disciples Women project to become involved in supporting domestic violence shelters in concrete actions. Watch our website to learn more early next year.

Make Up Session for Boundary Training for Pastors Jan. 21



In September the Regional Church offered a boundary training online seminar in partnership with The Center for Faith and Giving. This was a required training for our region's pastors to maintain ministerial standing. The topic was Financial Ethics in

Church leadership.

For those who were unable to come or may be interested in attending the seminar, a make up session is planned for January 21. Watch email and our website for details closer to the event.

Report from Regional Board Meeting

At the November 5 regional board meeting online, 25 people participated from 19 congregations, representing all 5 of our districts and all 3 languages we speak in worship.

Highlights of the meeting included:

- ♦ Reviewed financial statements year to date, passed a 2023 budget and received the audit of the 2021 budget year.
- ♦ Voted to empower the Executive Committee to appoint two task forces: one to review the regional church governing documents and one to begin the planning of a regional gathering in 2024.
- ♦ Finalized a vote on an amendment to the governing documents to change the duties of the Second Vice Moderator.
- ♦ Heard a summary of property matters from the Executive Committee.
- ♦ Received reports from all staff and committees, some of which are on line.
- ♦ Discussed return of western district camps to Suttle Lake and plan to initiate a survey of stakeholders about creating a regional youth committee.



You can learn more about your Regional Church Board at:

www.oidisciples.org/regional-board-updates