

CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN OREGON SOUTHWEST IDAHO
NEW CHURCH MINISTRY TEAM
REGIONAL BOARD REPORT, SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
February 1, 2020

The Regional New Church Ministry Team recommends three congregations for approval as fully recognized congregations of the Oregon Southwest Idaho regional church. The *2019 Yearbook and Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)* currently lists all three as Congregations in Formation. Upon approval by the Regional Board, all three will change their listing to the established congregations section of the Oregon and Southwest Idaho section of the Yearbook. A short description of each congregation follows:

Iglesia Nueva Vida began affiliation with Disciples of Christ on June 4, 2011. Working with Rev. Ketty Santos of the New Church Ministry staff in Indianapolis, Nueva Vida participated in Leadership Academy and worked with the regional church to establish operations and ministry located at New Song Church near NE MLK Jr. Blvd. in Portland. Since 2017, Nueva Vida has leased a church property in Gresham owned by the United Church of Christ. Pastor Carlos Bernier is a commissioned Disciples of Christ minister. In addition to a week of summer studies at Lexington Theological Seminary, he has studied with the Certificate of Ministry Studies program of Disciples Seminary Foundation in Portland. He will complete four semesters this spring and has encouraged a large group of leaders from Nueva Vida to take the classes with him. His wife, Sarah Otero, is a Commissioned Program Minister of the Disciples and also takes the CMS classes. Pastor Carlos has also attended Obra Hispana general church events. The church has a strong evangelistic outreach and includes about 300 regular members and 73 youth.

Pacific Islands Family Church affiliated with Disciples on September 16, 2015. PIFC has met at Midway Christian Church in Portland throughout that time. With about 100 members and a dozen youth, the church has a strong presence in the Chuukese community of Portland. The church also reaches out with a new ministry in Longview, located at First Christian Church. PIFC has also worked with Chuukese ministries in Utah and in Boise, Idaho (Pacific Outreach Christian Church). Working with the regional church, the congregation has twice hosted the national Easter Rally for Chuukese Disciples, once at FCC Portland and once at Mt. Hood Community College. NAPAD Executive Pastor Chung Seong Kim has preached at Portland and led classes about Disciples identity. Pastor Kikuo Yerem is a commissioned Disciples of Christ minister who also works full time for the Veterans Administration. PIFC took a large group to Boise for the first anniversary of POCC being with Disciples in November 2019. The church has brought groups to sing for the Regional Assembly, the NAPAD Convocation and several times at the national Chuukese rallies.

Portsmouth Union Church in Portland also affiliated with Disciples on September 16, 2015. This is a “union” church because it has joined Saint Johns Community Church and University Park United Methodist. Both were located in the St. Johns neighborhood of North Portland, with St. Johns Community Church newly affiliated with Disciples at the time of the union with University Park UMC in October 2017. Pastors Jules Nielsen and Andy Goebel have worked together as a team since Portsmouth came into being as one church. Pastor Jules is an ordained UMC minister and Pastor Andy is a commissioned Disciples of Christ minister who has entered the recognition of ministry process with the regional Commission on Ministry. He attended the Columbus General Assembly in 2015 and took a Disciples history and polity course from Disciples church historian John Imbler. With about 100 members, Portsmouth has taken an innovative and passionate approach to affordable housing, taking down their Fellowship Hall as a step toward building apartments on the church property.