

**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

• Nov. 30	Silverton FCC Search Committee	Cathy
• Nov. 30	La Grande FCC Search Committee	Cathy
• Nov. 27	Murray Hills CC Search Committee	Cathy
• Nov. 24	Santiam River District Clergy	Cathy
• Nov. 21	Wayne Bryant Gathering	Doug/Cathy
• Nov. 20	Disciples Seminary Foundation	Doug
• Nov. 19	Murray Hills CC Search Committee	Cathy
• Nov. 19	Snake River District Clergy	Cathy
• Nov. 18	Eugene FCC Transition Committee	Cathy
• Nov. 14	Eugene FCC Governing Documents Cte.	Cathy
• Nov. 14	Silverton FCC Search Committee	Cathy
• Nov. 13	Murray Hills CC Search Committee	Cathy
• Nov. 12	Ecumenical Ministries Bishops/Execs.	Doug
• Nov. 12	Scenic Rivers District Clergy	Cathy
• Nov. 11	Columbia Gorge District Clergy	Cathy
• Nov. 10	Commission on Ministry	Doug
• Nov. 9	La Grande FCC Search Committee	Cathy
• Nov. 7	North American/Pacific Asian Disciples Bd.	Doug
• Nov. 7	North American/Pacific Asian Disciples Convocation	Doug
• Nov. 7	Regional Board Meeting	Doug/Cathy
• Nov. 5	Murray Hills CC Search Committee	Cathy

News from our Congregations

Grants Pass: Emergency food grant for ROC Center from Week of Compassion.

Ontario: Pastor Joe Culley has concluded his ministry.

Mountain Home: Pastor Gary Allen has announced his retirement. He will continue as Pastor of New Hope Christian Church in Meridian.

Hood River Valley: Hosting warming shelter pallet homes on parking lot. Received grants from Week of Compassion and **The View Christian Church.**

Medford: Featured in local TV story about how congregations are adapted to COVID 19 realities.

Northwood/Springfield: 24 hours of music on Christmas Day online

Junction City: Adopt a fire family, assisting people experiencing fire damage.

Springfield FCC: Hosting PTSD support group.

Portland FCC: Zoom Advent gatherings Thursday evenings.

Salem FCC: Heard 3 Claremont School of Theology students preach this fall in morning worship.

Murray Hills: Book Group reading Diane Butler Bass book, ***Grounded: Finding God in the World.***

Hashtag #oidisciples

Facebook Page

Christian Church in Oregon and SW Idaho

Common Current online news service

www.oidisciples.org/news-clh8s



www.oidisciples.org 245 S Bancroft Suite F, Portland 97239



Volume 6 Issue 6

Advent Blessings...

**From your
Regional
Church
Staff**



Liz Cronin

Bernice Rivera

Stacy Shelton

Cathy Myers Wirt

Douglas A. Wirt

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Christmas Offering for Regional Ministries Received in December see www.oidisciples.org



Regional Church life in 2020 has been a series of instead moments...

- ◆ Instead of our Regional Ministers coming to visit us, they came to us virtually, preaching, praying and leading search processes online
- ◆ Instead of Wild Women of the West Event in Las Vegas and our women's retreats, we held events with women from around the globe coming together online
- ◆ Instead of driving up and down the interstate to see each other in meetings, our people drove up and down

- freeways delivering supplies for those impacted by the summer wildfires
- ◆ Instead of our Regional Assembly in Salem in May, we met on line with a couple hundred people, receiving an offering of over \$6,500 for COVID 19 relief in rural Ecuador with our partners in FEDICE
- ◆ Instead of doing our anti-racism training in person, we met on line with multiple congregations' members for this important work
- ◆ Instead of meeting in person, our regional board met on line with more people at the table than when we met in person

Instead, instead, instead..... so many ways we had to adapt. AND, what we learned is that our regional church is resilient.

- ◆ We met the impact of wild fires with compassion
- ◆ We met racism with prayerful conversation and action
- ◆ We met COVID with strategies for gathering and generosity with our partners in Ecuadorian rural communities
- ◆ We met restrictions with ingenuity
- ◆ We met distance with technological connection
- ◆ We met isolation with community

We remained a regional church and will do it again in 2021, meeting the challenges and opportunities we have for ministry together. In a season of Advent hope, we ask that you remember the regional church in your prayers and offerings that we together might strongly meet the opportunities of being a regional church in 2021.

Learn more by going to: www.oidisciples.org/christmas-offering. You will find a video, bulletin insert, powerpoint slide, a poster, and our offering logo for your use.

This offering provides 6% of the annual budget of our regional church.

FEDICE USA and Regional Church in new Partnership

Our regional board has voted to provide in kind services for our partner organization FEDICE USA. FEDICE USA is the stateside non-profit organization that supports the work of FEDICE in Ecuador.

Regional staff will assist a few hours per month with website communications, financial records and other forms of administration. These services will be shared without cost to FEDICE and without co-mingling funds between the organizations.

Gifts to FEDICE go to www.fedice.org.



Disciples within the regional church have shown a strong interest in talking and learning about ways to address racism and to promote understanding as Christ's people. In addition to the annual Reconciliation offering, this past summer and fall include:



RECONCILIATION MINISTRY

- Regional Board conversation with the Anti-Racism Team of the Region on June 6
 - Two regional conversations on Zoom in June that included over 60 people
 - Anti-Racism/Pro Reconciliation trainings in English on August 8 with over 75 people
 - Anti-Racism/Pro Reconciliation training in Spanish on September 25-26, including members from four of our five Spanish Speaking congregations
 - Book group discussion for 10 weeks with over 45 people in 3 groups from 6 churches
- Your giving to the Reconciliation offering helps strengthen our ministries in congregations and communities during this critical time in the life of our nation.



Disciples Seminary Foundation
Partners in the Journey

Claremont School of Theology has begun classes located at, and as a part of Willamette University in Salem.

In the fall semester, several Disciples students are living in Oregon and taking classes at CST.

Many others are hybrid or online students from elsewhere in the Northwest, in California and in many locations. Belva Brown Jordan, Interim President of Disciples Seminary Foundation, also teaches courses with CST as Associate Professor of the Practice of Ministry. This summer, she taught a course in Disciples of Christ History and Polity.

Newly arrived students, faculty and staff had a rough transition to Oregon with the pandemic, forest fires, poor air quality and an incident of racist violence at the Capitol on Labor Day. Salem FCC and others within the regional church have reached out to welcome the CST community.

You know we have a DOC yearbook, but did you know we are moving some of that data online AND collecting all 2020 data online? Meet Alex: Data for Disciples! This free tool for all congregations is being implemented right now. You can capture your weekly attendance and giving data to see trends.



DOCTalks Online informational Conversations will be hosting Rev. Terri Hord Owens and staff working on this new way to gather and share data about our congregations.

Thursday, Dec. 10, 11:00 a.m. Pacific/noon Mountain time
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/689544374#success>

You can get a brief overview
You can learn more about the project

www.youtube.com/watch?v=oRa4AzDSgjY
<https://disciples.org/alex/>