

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

| | | |
|--------------|--|------------|
| • August 25 | Portland, Portsmouth Union, Preaching | Doug |
| • Aug. 23-24 | Snake River Women's Retreat, Cascade ID | Cathy |
| • August 4 | Portland First, Preaching | Doug |
| • July 28 | Portland First, Interim Farewell, Jacobs | Doug |
| • July 20-24 | General Assembly, Des Moines, IA | Cathy |
| • July 14 | Silverton, Preaching | Cathy |
| • June 30 | Portland First Christian, Preaching | Doug |
| • June 29 | Ordination, Giuseppe Amato | Doug/Cathy |
| • June 26 | Commission on Ministry | Doug |
| • June 23 | Beaverton, Murray Hills, Preaching | Cathy |
| • June 22 | Salem, Specialized Ministries BBQ | Doug |
| • June 19 | Albany, Verne Catt McDowell Board Mtg | Doug |
| • June 18 | John Day, Blue Mountain Rivers Pastors | Doug |
| • June 16 | Beaverton, Murray Hills, Pastor's Farewell | Cathy |
| • June 15 | Salem FCC, Regional Assembly Planning | Cathy |
| • June 13 | Lynchwood, Trustees Meeting | Cathy |
| • June 13 | Bishops and Executives Lunch, EMO | Doug |
| • June 13 | Interchurch Center Board | Doug |
| • June 9 | Corvallis, FCC, Preaching, Pentecost | Cathy |
| • June 2 | Portland, First Christian Worship | Cathy/Doug |
| • June 1 | Regional Board Meeting | Doug/Cathy |



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

General Assembly



July 20-24 Disciples will gather in Des Moines. Our Regional Church will have folks there, but not everyone can make the trip.

If you would like to be a part of General Assembly from here in the Pacific NW, you can participate in the Bible Studies that can be found on the Assembly website: <https://ga.disciples.org/>

You will be able to stream some of the sessions and speakers. Watch our website for details as they become available: www.oidisciples.org

Portland First Calls New Pastor

In the first week of September, Portland First Christian begins a new chapter with a new Senior Pastor, Rev. Cynthia Dobson McBride. Cynthia comes to Oregon from Casper, Wyoming, where she has been Senior Pastor of First Christian Church there for the past 10 years. Before Wyoming, she served in ministry in Bloomington, Illinois for ten years and in a variety of positions in the Arizona Region before that time. Help us to welcome Rev. McBride and her husband Charles to their new Regional Church his fall.



Volume 6 Issue 7



| | |
|--|---|
| Camps Underway | 2 |
| Women's Retreat Trinity Pines Cascade, Idaho | 3 |
| Upcoming Dates to Note | 4 |
| News from Congregations | 4 |

Regional Assembly
May 15-16, 2020
Salem FCC
Rev. Sotello Long
President of Disciples Home Missions

News from our Congregations

Northwood Christian: Richard Russell is completing a nine year ministry as Associate Pastor.

Albany: Douglass Anne Cartwright is completing a five year ministry.

Parkview/Meridian: Thank you for hosting Kids' Camp!

Pendleton: Congratulations to Pastor Marc Mullins, who is now celebrating forty years in ministry!

Silverton: Summer sabbatical leave for Pastor Steve Knox.

La Grande: 130th anniversary celebration on September 8.

Murray Hills: Interim Staff, Rev. Sandy Berry, to begin August 15.

Hood River: Guest preacher David Eggleston on Pentecost speaking about our new church ministries.

Portland FCC: Honoring Revs. Bill and Mary Jacobs on July 28 for interim ministry service of almost two years.

Red Rock/Boise: Youth went on retreat to Cascade, ID cabin.

Lebanon: Youth helped to plant the "benevolence garden" for the FCC Soup Kitchen.

Salem: Hosting Family Promise homeless shelter in July.

Save these dates!

- July 8-12**
Junior Camp, ID
- July 20-24**
General Assembly
Des Moines, Iowa
- July 28-August 1**
Grade/Middle School, OR
- July 29-August 3**
Chi Rho/CYF Camps, ID
- August 2-6**
High School Camp, OR
- August 23-25**
Snake River District Women's Retreat
Cascade, Idaho



During July, Oregon SW Idaho Disciples will emphasize the **Annual Fund** for regional church ministries. This gives individuals a way to support the following with personal financial gifts:

- ◆ Finding well qualified and background checked pastors when churches need a new minister. **6 in process right now**
- ◆ Supporting and guiding people exploring a call to ministry **Over 20 at any one time**
- ◆ Encouraging church planters and new congregations **8 new and affiliating ministries right now**
- ◆ Witness and training in 3 local languages
- ◆ Assist churches in transitions **Currently 12 in some kind of change**
- ◆ Women's ministry events: **8 this year in Oregon and Idaho**
- ◆ Youth and children's events: **8 this year in Oregon and Idaho**



That's over fifty reasons right there, and it's not the whole list. Your regional church budget in 2019 has reduced expenses and staffing in order to protect savings for the future. We have tried to minimize the impact on programs and services. The Annual Fund is one important way to keep our regional ministries strong. You can send a check to the regional office or give online. Thank you for supporting the Annual Fund and Disciples ministries in Oregon and SW Idaho.

Regional Assembly May 15-16, 2020 Plans Underway



Save the Date for the Regional Assembly in Salem, May 15-16. The local arrangements committee at Salem First Christian Church started its work in June and you will see information on our website with more details in the early fall. Guest Preacher, Rev. Sotello Long, is President of Homeland Ministries and a sought after speaker.

Workshops, inspiring worship and displays with information about ministries near and far to share ideas are only the start of what you can expect. Stay tuned and watch our social media and webpage and your mailboxes in the months to come.

Camp is here and happening this month!!!

June Kid's Camp hosted by Parkview/Meridian starts of the camp season this year with six more camps in July and August for campers from Kindergarten graduates to high school graduates. This program runs primarily on volunteer power of counselors/nurses/directors/cooks/chaplains.

The Regional Church employs two part time people to help with the administration of the camps.

- ◆ **Stacy Shelton, Pastor Medford FCC for western districts' camps at Suttle Lake**
- ◆ **Tammy Anderson, Associate Pastor Nampa FCC for Snake River District camps**



Ministers' Housing Allowance Upheld as Constitutional

A March 2019 ruling in the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the ministers' housing allowance in the IRS tax code. A ruling in 2017 had found the housing allowance to be unconstitutional. The more recent decision reversed the 2017 ruling, leaving the housing allowance intact. The ministers' housing allowance permits churches to designate a portion of the compensation paid to clergy as for housing expenses. This amount then is legally excluded from reporting as taxable income. The salary and housing allowance amounts both are subject to self employment tax for Social Security purposes, unless a personal conscientious objection is registered.



Iglesia Cristiana Jehova-Nisi

On June 1, the Regional Board unanimously approved a new congregation in formation to join the Oregon SW Idaho region of Disciples of Christ. The church has met several times with new church ministry team members and with the board on the day of approval. Jorge Lopez is pastor of Iglesia Cristiana Jehova-Nisi, which now meets at Keizer Christian Church. Pastor Lopez and family have history with another local Disciples church, Iglesia Cristiana Escudo y Fortaleza in Salem, Agustin Martinez, pastor.

Fall Women's Retreats 2019

August 23-25, 2019, Trinity Pines Camp, Cascade, Idaho
Rev. Erin Curtis, Pastor, Springfield FCC & Glenwood CC

October 11-12, 2019, Murray Hills Christian, Beaverton, Oregon
Cindy Kim-Hengst, Chair, Week of Compassion Board of Stewards

Information is on our Regional Church Website: www.oidisciples.org



Claremont School of Theology Begins Move to Salem

In September 2019, Claremont School of Theology will begin teaching classes based in Salem, Oregon at Willamette University.

In this first year, course offerings will focus upon first year students in residential and hybrid programs leading to the Master of Divinity degree. For the past several years, the hybrid program has allowed Master of Divinity students to study online for most courses, while attending a small portion of the year on campus. Claremont students in the region such as Rob Tulloch (Meridian), Giuseppe Amato (Beaverton), Billy Strehlow (Salem) and Chuck Varner (Corvallis) have taken the hybrid option with brief trips to Claremont, California. Now these on campus sessions will take place in Salem.

For the first year, most Claremont seminary faculty will teach both in Claremont and in Salem. Well known Disciples scholars will teach in Salem during the on campus weeks for the hybrid program. Claremont is one of five partner schools for Disciples Seminary Foundation. Other DSF partner schools include San Francisco Theological Seminary, Iliff School of Theology (Denver), Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry, and Pacific School of Religion.

Your gifts to Disciples Mission Fund and the Thanksgiving offering help to train new leaders.