

**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

Audre Bratcher,
Administrative Assistant

On the Way with Doug and Cathy

- April 30 Regional Vision Team Cathy
- April 30 Lebanon Committee Meeting Doug
- April 29 Junction City Meeting Doug
- April 28 Hood River Women's Bible Study Cathy
- April 28 Albany, Santiam River Ministers Doug
- April 26 Ione Community Church, Preaching Cathy
- April 26 Midway Christian, Worship Doug
- April 25 Ione, Leaders Meeting Cathy
- April 25 Pendleton, Pray and Play for Women Cathy
- April 24 LaGrande, Blue Mt. Dist. Pastors Doug/Cathy
- April 23 Gomer's House Cathy/Doug
- April 21 Junction City, Board Meeting Doug
- April 21 Eugene, Olive Plaza Board Meeting Doug
- April 19 Eugene, Scholarship Dinner Speaker Cathy
- April 19 Albany, Worship and Info Meeting Cathy
- April 19 Trees of Righteousness Anniversary Doug
- April 18 Albany Transition Committee Cathy
- April 18 Silverton, Women's Pray and Play Cathy
- April 15 Ecumenical Ministries Board Retreat Doug
- April 13 Red Rock Board meeting Doug
- April 12 Red Rock, New Hope preaching Doug



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May 16 Regional Vision Gatherings

- 12:30—4:30 Lynchwood, Pendleton, Eugene and Dallas
- 1:30—5:30 Red Rock in Boise



SO THE BIG QUESTION.....Why come to these gatherings instead of simply filling out a survey about your thoughts and preferences?

Your vision team believes a survey can describe a church and what the members/friends hope or want for the church.

A conversation can change a church and the people within it to embolden them to move forward with witness and ministry together.

In the last two years our regional church has gone from being a small region of 30 plus congregations and a smaller regional church of less than 20 congregations to becoming a medium size region of over 40 congregations in a new configuration and geography – a MUCH larger geography. We now span two states, have congregations in 17 Oregon counties and 5 Idaho counties, and we worship in two languages. We have welcomed five newly formed or affiliating congregations into fully recognized status, with more congregations in conversation about affiliation. We are not the same regional church as we were 15, 10 or even 5 years ago!

In our recent history, we have done ministry together by driving to events, connecting by postal service and internet, giving money to a wide variety of ministries we share, and having our regional pastors drive thousands of miles a year to keep us connected. Our vision team asks us to consider new ways to use tools of technology now available to us and new networks of relationship that help us build broader community, deeper spiritual capacity and a wider, more inclusive witness.

For schedule and questions we will discuss, go to:
http://media.wix.com/ugd/0cb219_409f48b4d1b940d983ca972156320f6d.pdf



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News from our Congregations

LaGrande/Nampa: Chimes Choir from FCC LaGrande planning to visit FCC Nampa

Red Rock Boise: Planting a Community Garden on site.

Dallas FCC: Fundraising to replace their church van.

Grants Pass FCC: has a new Office Manager. Welcome Malinda!

Eugene FCC: Celebrated World Labyrinth Day by taking a field trip to a Labyrinth Prayer walk.

Lynchwood: Continuing to collect books for children at neighboring Lynchwood School.

Silverton FCC: Children's Choir will present *Psalms and Psongs* during worship in May.

Northwood Springfield: Participating in the 53rd Habitat House build in Eugene/Springfield area.

Salem FCC: Hosting a week of Interfaith Hospitality Network in their building This is a ministry with houseless families.

The View Portland: Being recognized at General Assembly in Ohio this summer for being a small congregation with a big global witness.

Midway Portland: Paid off parking lot mortgage. Congrats

Save these dates!

- May 16** 5 Locations
Regional Visioning Day
(See front page article)
- May 24** Albany FCC
Farewell for Rev. Patty Evans
- May 30** Junction City FCC
Women's Pray and Play Day
- May 31** Medford FCC
Farewell for Rev. Alicia Speidel
- June 6** Murray Hills CC
Regional Board Meeting
- June 7** Hood River Valley CC
Farewell for Rev. Myrna Phillips



**Regional Assembly
May 20-21, 2016**

*Hosted by
Northwood Christian
in
Springfield, Oregon*

Pentecost New Church Ministries Offering



Several weeks after Easter, the church celebrates a day called Pentecost, also known as the birthday of the church. This comes from Acts 2, when believers received the Holy Spirit and became able to glorify God across the usual barriers of language and culture. The day of Pentecost stands as a unique event, but rather than a "one and done" kind of thing, Pentecost also gave a sign of things to come.

For example, in Acts 16, the apostle Paul received a vision and set sail for Macedonia just like that. In Philippi, he met some women in a prayer group by the river. The women included Lydia, the founding mother of a new Philippian church.

On May 17 and 24, Disciples will receive a special Pentecost offering for new church ministry. This special fund supports new congregations nearby and across North America.

Like the church at Philippi long ago, many of these churches start with a small group and then connect with a larger network of Christians. Disciples support new church ministries through a Leadership Academy and other trainings, purchase of equipment and insurance, rental costs and many more forms of support.

On Easter weekend, I worshiped with Iglesia Cristiana Peniel in Hillsboro, and enjoyed a great Mexican dinner to raise funds for a new sound system. Your giving to the Pentecost offering also gave support to this fund drive. The Oregon-SW Idaho region is working with several developing ministries right now. This year on Pentecost, let's reach out as Disciples and follow where the vision leads.

Doug

Women's Pray and Play Days.....Get a Clue!!!

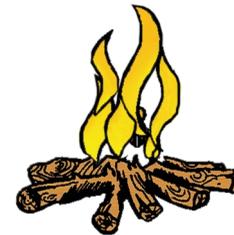
Women have gathered in Ontario, Burley, Portland, Silverton, and Pendleton to enjoy a scavenger hunt that helped us understand women in the Bible, while at the same time learning the prayer forms of examen, lectio divina, mindfulness and more. Using our handy magnifying glasses with the new regional logo printed on them, we read tiny clues written in Haiku poetry to find more clues hidden around sanctuaries about how to deepen our lives of spiritual practice.

Women at these events also cut up plastic shopping bags to help youth and women at this summer's General Assembly in Ohio to crochet sleeping mat for our houseless neighbors and folded several hundred paper cranes for the display of Disciples Womens Ministry at General Assembly.

Offerings totally over \$1,500 were received in Ontario and Burley for the Woman to Woman Trip to Middle East that Erin Donnell from Red Rock Christian will go on this fall and in the other three events for the work of FEDICE Ecuador and the Gogoi Farm in Mozambique. In addition, women in the western events purchased almost 100 books for the Lynchwood Christian Church book drive for Lynchwood School next door to them. Over 25 copies of this year's book group read, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou were also purchased.

One more event is scheduled for May 30 in Junction City from 9:30-12:30.

Registration information is on our website at www.oidisciples.org.



News from our Partners in Ecuador — FEDICE

FEDICE Director, Blanca Puma, has been traveling in the United States, visiting partners of FEDICE in Texas and Illinois and spending time in Indianapolis with Global Ministries Staff.

While she was traveling, the Romerillos Day Care Center held its dedication. Romerillos is the town where our current partnership project is based. Our project there is to give micro loans to people growing fields of onions and raising cattle. Our project is needs about \$2000 more to reach the goal of \$15,000.

Bethany Waggoner, from Eugene First Christian, is into her second year as a Global Mission Partner with FEDICE. Bethany is assisting with reworking Facebook and Web presence on the Internet. The new website and updated Facebook presence have new stories every few weeks. Go and learn more at <https://www.facebook.com/fedice.ecuador> and <http://www.fedice.org/>.

For 20 years, FEDICE has worked to empower indigenous and marginalized communities in the Ecuadorian Andes to break the cyclical chains of poverty, discrimination and injustice. Over those two decades, FEDICE has invested \$1.2 Million USD in 56 communities in order to increase the quality of life for nearly 20,000 Ecuadorians. They currently work with 13 communities in four Sierran provinces: Carchi, Imbabura, Pichincha and Cotopaxi.

Conversations for a 2016 trip from our Regional Church to Ecuador have begun.



Church Camp Registration Deadlines Approaching

Kids Camp in Ontario and All Camps at Cascade in Idaho Registrations Due by May 15

All Suttle Lake Camps Registrations Due by July 1

For information go to our website <http://www.oidisciples.org/#!blank/c12dp>

Congregational Transitions

Several congregations are in a time of staff transition.

- ◆ Medford FCC Pastor Alicia Speidel leaving after 12 years, Interim to be called soon
- ◆ Albany FCC Pastor Patty Evans retiring after 11 years, Interim to be called soon
- ◆ Junction City FCC Interim Michael Crouch in place, search committee working
- ◆ Hood River Valley New Pastor, Alicia Speidel, begins ministry in June, Installation scheduled for Saturday, September 12. Thank you to Pastor Myrna Phillips for her service as Interim Minister in Hood River.