

Report- Board Christian Church in Oregon and SW Idaho, June 5, 2021

Summited by: Bernice Rivera

For the past thirteen months, many of us have stayed away from our places of worship to keep ourselves and our faith communities safe. It has been a time to think of new modalities or alternatives on how to work, bringing an immense opportunity for creativity. It also refocused priorities and alternatives to explore doing mindful work.

I participated in frequent phone communications with the congregations to direct them to available resources throughout the General Church and/or others congregation in the region / community. Supported New Churches with the yearbook report (now called Alex), and boundaries training. Also, worked on translating forms into Spanish: Standing Renewal and ALEX. Also, acted as translator and small group leader at the April 17 online regional women's event.

Diploma of Ministry Studies

3 Disciples students completed the second term of the first year.

New Church Ministry- see more information in New Church Ministry report

- We welcomed 3 new team members and cultivated a new vision for NVMT work. Our new members are: Alicia Speidel from Hood River Christian Church, Melissa Painter from Red Rock, Boise Idaho, and Geonyul Byeon, First Christian Church in Salem.
- On May 22, we held our first "Meet our New Church Planters" online using Zoom. We heard new ways to share the gospel. Pastor Carlos Bernier from Nueva Vida, pastors Leticia & Gustavo Oregel from Principe de Paz, Pastor Jorge Lopez from Iglesia Jehova Nisi and Rev. Andy Goebel for Portsmouth Union Church were the panelist.
- Promoted Special Pentecost Offering by: visiting, preaching, stewardship moment, newsletter and answer questions to existing congregation.
- [Water the Plants prayer initiative - New Church Ministry](#) . We are currently recruiting persons from our region to join in Water the Plants. The goal is to have at least one person for each of our New Churches in the region praying for them. We still need three more people.

The **New Church Summit has been** meeting monthly in eight Tactical Teams to develop goals and strategies. I have participated in four of them: General & Regional Responsibilities, Inclusion & Reconciliation, Funding & Social Entrepreneur, and Training, & Resources.

Obra Hispana –

The Hispanic congregations started to coordinate to support the National Hispanic Board meeting. The meeting will take place on December 9th-11th in Portland, Oregon. Mark your calendar and stay tuned for upcoming announcements.

- As the moderator of the Northwest Convention, I attended several online meetings during this time in order to respond to the needs of the Hispanic congregations. Helped coordinate support relief for pastors in our region. As chair of the personnel committee, primarily worked with Rev. Lori Tapia on her sabbatical and staff sick leave.
- Promote: Obra Contigo (a weekly program on Fridays), Monthly Prayer Group for pastor (on the first Monday of the month).

Commissioned Ministry.

- I supported “Commission on Ministry” by helping commissioned pastors schedule a personal boundary training this year. The training is required for continuing in good standing as a commissioned minister in the Oregon Southwest Idaho region. I also attended monthly meetings.

Anti -Racism

- Attended the Anti-Racism Educators Collaborator Group’s weekly meetings. We are meeting every Thursday.
- Attended Regional Anti-Racism meeting

Other regular meetings attended FEDICE.

Global Ministry Board

Attend Global Ministry Board on April 23-24

When the Search Committee has agreed on a candidate, we will consult with the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and then present the candidate for your consideration. Assuming you agree with the Search Committee’s choice, you will then nominate the candidate for election by the General Board.

What are some of the things the Hispanic churches are doing?

- Iglesia Nueva Vida and Iglesia Jehova Nisi are doing on site worship
- Iglesia Jehovah Nisi, Rio de Dios and Peniel Ministries has done a similar outreach via streamline worship.
- Principe de Paz in Portland have been reaching out by radio broadcast
- Rio de Dios is renewing a coaching program with New Church Ministry and Iglesia Jehova Nisi has completed the requirement to start the program now in the fall.

Upcoming Events

- Women Retreat for Hispanic Women on May 28, 2021
- Men retreat for Hispanic Men in August 14, 2021
- National Hispanic Board Meeting in Dec.9-11