

**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

- Online with Doug and Cathy*
- Oct. 31 Installation Salem FCC, Matt & Michelle Harris-Gloyer
  - Oct. 27 Commission on Ministry
  - Oct. 23 Installation Murray Hills, Rev. Troy Sybrant
  - Oct. 20 Webinar about ALEX Data System
  - Oct. 19 Blue Mountain Rivers District Clergy Zoom
  - Oct. 19 Commission on Finance and Administration
  - Oct. 16 Installation Pendleton FCC, Rev. Karyn Dix
  - Oct. 14 Scenic Rivers District Clergy Zoom
  - Oct. 13 Columbia Gorge District Clergy Zoom
  - Oct. 12 Regional Budget Committee for 2022 Budget
  - Oct. 9 Online Regional Disciples Women's Gathering
  - Oct. 6-8 Disciples Seminary Foundation Board
  - Oct. 4 Murray Hills Pastoral Installation Committee
  - Oct. 3 Eugene FCC Congregational Meeting
  - Sept. 30 Church World Service Webinar/Refugee Info
  - Sept. 26 Ordination of Billy Strehlow, Salem FCC
  - Sept. 26 Eugene FCC Congregational Board Meeting
  - Sept. 25 Reframing Church Governing Docs Webinar
  - Sept. 23 Church Law and Tax Report Webinar
  - Sept. 22 College of Regional Ministers



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**JOIN A VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE TO ECUADOR**  
**FEDICE PILGRIMAGE**

You are invited to come on a pilgrimage by the Internet for nine days in Ecuador. If you have never gone to Ecuador, or if you have been there and want to go again, now is your chance. Global Ministries and FEDICE have prepared a series of one and two hour online visits for you **November 10-19.**

Virtual pilgrims will learn about the ministries of our global mission partner FEDICE in Ecuador. You will have the opportunity to meet with FEDICE staff, board members and community leaders for brief afternoon visits on the following days: Nov. 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19. Most days are two hour sessions. Three of the days have one hour sessions scheduled. A brief orientation will be on October 27.

Ecuadoran participants will include pastors, community women's group leaders, FEDICE staff and board members. FEDICE staff will include Executive Director Blanca Puma, Financial and Microloan Director Hugo Pacheco and Agricultural Advisor Marco Garcón. Communities represented will come from Imbabura (north of Quito), Cotapaxi (south of Quito) and Sua (coastal area).

If you have not visited FEDICE in Ecuador, this is a perfect opportunity to gain face to face knowledge with little cost or risk. If you have visited in Ecuador, you will gain lots of information that is new to you. After our long time apart during the pandemic, FEDICE and Global Ministries have worked hard to prepare this amazing time of friendship between our brothers and sisters in Christ in two different continents.

**Registration is \$25 on the Global Ministries website:**  
[www.globalministries.org/people-to-people-pilgrimages/](http://www.globalministries.org/people-to-people-pilgrimages/)



**Volume 7 Issue 7**

**Regional Assembly**  
**May 20-21, 2022**  
**Thank you Salem First Christian Church for offering to host this event**

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**News from Congregations**

**Rio de Dios:** Pastora Noelia Garcia will complete her time of ministry at the end of this year.

**Albany:** Youth making kits to welcome Afghan Refugees.

**Corvallis:** Will give the profits of craft fair to Week of Compassion/Forest Fire aid.

**Northwood/Springfield** — has held worship on the property to which they plan to relocate.

**Keizer:** has assisted in resettling an Afghan family

**Pendleton:** Co-Pastor Marc Mullins back from Sabbatical

**Nampa:** Holding Trunk or Treat event on October 30.

**Portsmouth Union :** 20 units of affordable housing built on their property are almost ready for occupancy.

**Pendleton/Murray Hills/Salem:** will install new pastoral leadership in October.

**Hood River Valley:** Rings church bells, along with other congregations in town, every Friday in memory of those who have died in the COVID 19 pandemic.

**Pacific Islands Family Church:** working to send shipping container of relief supplies to Chuuk Islands in response to rising sea levels.

**Hashtag #oidisciples**

**Facebook Page**

*Christian Church in Oregon and SW Idaho*

**Common Current online news service**

[www.oidisciples.org/news-clh8s](http://www.oidisciples.org/news-clh8s)



The pandemic is not your pastor's fault. Yes, I'm sure you already knew that. Even so, it's worth remembering. Your pastor likely doesn't regard public health science in the way that the church once regarded astronomy in the days of Galileo. Yet there are some who do in every community, making pastoral and medical, educational and other kinds of work much harder in 2020 and 2021.

Over the past two years, the stressful work of pastors has taken on greater challenges. Pastors have had to provide worship, teaching and pastoral care in new ways via the Internet. They have had to learn with the rest of us to monitor Covid infection and death rates, vaccination rates, ICU capacity, and the developing research about how to slow the spread of the virus. Some pastors have closed ministries without the kind of farewells everyone would have liked. Some have started ministries, challenged to form new pastoral bonds without as much in person time together. Plus, the usual variety of opinions in a church is multiplied in a time when our nation is too divided to face a major crisis effectively. Nationwide, people are changing jobs, changing churches, changing worship attendance and social patterns much more than usual. Again, that's also not the pastor's fault. A good recipe for stress is in having responsibility without having control. That describes a pastor's challenges during the pandemic, as well as those challenges faced by many others today.

October is the month when Disciples of Christ observe the Week of the Ministry. It may be a week, month, day or moment this year. In whatever way, let's find ways to say thank you to our Disciples ministers who are serving so well for love of God, love of the church, and love of neighbor. In addition to parish pastors, let's give thanks for hospital, hospice, campus, street and prison chaplains who have had an incredibly rough period of ministry. You can find resources for Week of the Ministry at <https://pensionfund.org/resources/week-of-ministry>. To the pastors, chaplains and spiritual counselors in our midst, we give our gratitude and our love. As it says in Phillipians 1:7: "It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart."

**Doug**



## Thanksgiving Offering for Higher Education Ministry



### Higher Education & Leadership Ministries

of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

On **November 14 and 21**, Disciples congregations will receive a special offering for our higher education ministries. This includes 15 colleges and universities and 7 theological schools and programs. Many of our ministers

and other church leaders in the Oregon SW Idaho regional church have attended these schools.

The Thanksgiving offering supports Disciples Seminary Foundation as it supports students training for futures in ministry and teaching. For example, DSF provides scholarships for Chuck Varner (Corvallis) and Geonyul Byeon (Salem) as they study for the Master of Divinity degree at Claremont School of Theology.

Twenty seven students completed the Certificate of Ministry Studies program in Portland last year, taught entirely in Spanish. Currently Michelle Harris-Gloyer (Salem), Larry Snow (Red Rock) and Doug Wirt (Regional Minister) serve on the board of DSF.

You may give to the Thanksgiving Offering at [www.disciplesmissionfund.org](http://www.disciplesmissionfund.org) designated to Thanksgiving offering in the pull down menu.

### Eugene First Christian Shares Bequest

Eugene FCC has a policy of sharing a portion of bequests given to them into ministries beyond their own walls. In September the mission committee of the congregation had the joy of distributing \$66,500 in funds. Thank you to the congregation for their foresight and generosity.

- ◆ \$15,000 to Week of Compassion for U.S. **Storms Response**, **COVID** relief effort, and **Haiti** hurricane response
- ◆ \$15,000 to Oregon SW Idaho Disciples for **Anti-Racism** Team's ministry, **Clergy Family** benevolence and **FEDICE USA**
- ◆ \$36,500 to Global Ministries for **Democratic Republic of Congo** Wema Hospital and COVID response, **Mexico** Albergue Las Memorias Hostel, **Puerto Rico** hurricane relief, **Colombia** Workers for Peace, **Indonesia** House of Hope, **India** Family Farm Village, **Central America** Storm relief and a grant to **Refugee and Immigration Ministries**.



### Regional Church Board to Meet November 6

Due to the risks of the Covid-19 pandemic, our board meeting will be held entirely online. The board has met online since June 2020. Erik Free (Keizer) is the Regional Moderator. At the November meeting, the board will consider an operating budget for 2022, receive a financial audit report for 2020 and review the income and expenses for 2021. Members will also hear program reports from committees and staff, hear reports on properties owned by the regional church, and elect a Nominating Committee for the 2022

Regional Assembly. The board will also consider budgeting for a part time Administrative Assistant. To learn more about the regional board, [www.oidisciples.org/regional-board-updates](http://www.oidisciples.org/regional-board-updates)

### Pastoral Transitions in November



**Zane Ridings** is completing his ministry with **Lebanon First Christian Church** on October 31 and will begin ministry as one of the Co-Pastors of **Eugene First Christian Church** in mid November.

**David Eggleston** will complete his ministry with **McMinnville First Christian Church** in early November and will begin ministry as the Interim Pastor of **Red Rock Christian Church in Boise** November 18.

*Prayers for all four of the congregations involved in these transitions and these two pastors.*