

January 25, 2008

Journey of Discovery

Report to the Regional Board

Meeting at Englewood Christian Church

February 8-9, 2008

The Journey of Discovery (JOD) congregational transformation process was formally initiated in the Northwest Region in September, 2005, under the leadership of then Associate Regional Minister Charlotte Hoppe. Nine congregations made up the “first wave” of congregations from this Region on the Journey along with nineteen Presbyterian congregations from four different Presbyteries ranging from central Washington to eastern Montana. The formal five phase JOD process is expected to take approximately three years to complete, with training for the fifth and final phase to take place in November, 2008.

The Journey of Discovery process is being facilitated by Ray Schulte, a lead consultant from the Center for Parish Development in Chicago, Illinois. Ray provides training for Regional consultants who are assigned to and work directly with each of the congregations on the Journey. Ray also provides periodic cluster training events for the coordinating teams from eastside Disciples and all Presbyterian congregations on the Journey while the Regional consultants provide the same training for westside Disciples coordinating teams. Ray and the Regional consultants also conducted several training events for any clergy and lay leaders in the Region who are interested in congregational transformation.

The nine Northwest Region congregations participating in the first wave of the Journey of Discovery, their assigned consultants, and their current status in the JOD process are shown below:

<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Consultant</u>	<u>Status</u>
Bellingham FCC	Sandy Messick	In Phase 3 (On Hold)
Edmonds CC	Sandy Messick	Completing Phase 3
Puyallup FCC	Connie Robey	Completing Phase 3
Tacoma FCC	Bill and Connie Robey	In Phase 3
Bremerton CC	Don Carlson	Completing Phase 3
Englewood CC	Bill and Connie Robey	Completing Phase 3
United CC (Yakima)	Don Carlson	In Phase 3
North Hill CC	Bill and Connie Robey	In Phase 3
Opportunity CC	Rebecca Hale	In Phase 3

Congregational coordinating team training in anticipation of Phase 4 took place for the four eastside congregations on January 19, 2008, at Opportunity Christian Church in Spokane. That same training will be repeated for westside congregational coordinating teams at Puyallup First Christian Church on January 26, 2008.

Due to increased demands upon her time, in mid-January of this year Tabitha Anderson resigned as the JOD consultant to North Hill and Opportunity Christian Churches in Spokane. Bill and Connie Robey will serve as consultants for North Hill Christian Church while Rebecca Hale will temporarily serve as consultant for Opportunity Christian Church until other arrangement can be finalized.

In March of 2006 the Regional Board contracted with Sandy Messick and Bill Robey to provide on-going leadership and coordination as Regional Co-Coordinator for the Journey of Discovery process through the remainder of 2006. At the end of 2006, the Board approved an extension of the interim, part-time personal services contracts with Sandy and Bill to continue their role as Co-Coordinator through 2007. Sandy Messick resigned as JOD Co-Coordinator in February 2007. Interim Regional Minister Rebecca Hale replaced Sandy as JOD Co-Coordinator and was to work with Bill in providing JOD leadership and coordination until the beginning of the anticipated second wave of congregations to enter the Journey sometime in 2008.

With the advent of the Regional RISE Transformation Process, Rebecca realized she would need to be replaced as JOD Co-Coordinator before the beginning of the second wave. Rebecca recommended and at its Fall, 2007, meeting the Regional Board approved the nomination of Connie Robey, a trained JOD consultant, to join Bill as interim, part-time Regional JOD Co-Coordinator, to begin immediately. At that same meeting, the interim, part-time contract with both Bill and Connie was extended through calendar year 2008.

To fund the Journey of Discovery process, in 2005 the Regional Board set aside \$220,000 from the sale of Regionally owned church properties into a special fund earmarked for congregational transformation. In addition, into that fund each participating congregation paid a one-time enrollment fee of \$250 and a consulting fee equal to ten times its average enrollment as reported in the 2004 Yearbook (not-to-exceed \$1500).

At the end of 2006, the JOD forecast upcoming 2007 expenses to be \$24,328 which were to be paid from the above funding source. Actual 2007 expenses equaled \$22,209.28. (See Atch 1)

For the 2008 Regional budget, the JOD forecasted expenses to be approximately \$24,813, including the final expenses for the first wave of congregations and the start-up expenses for the second wave. However, that forecast was based on Rebecca Hale continuing as Co-Coordinator until the beginning of Second Wave activities in April, 2008, when she was to be replaced by a new, interim, part-time Co-Coordinator. With Connie Robey assuming the Co-Coordinator responsibilities in October, 2007, (after submission of the forecast 2008 JOD budget figures) the forecast expenses for 2008 increased to \$26,112. This change may necessitate an adjustment to the 2008 budget that was approved by the Board in November, 2007. (See Atch 2)

We are actively planning for a second wave of congregations to enter the Journey of Discovery congregational transformation process in the Fall of 2008. Four new Regional consultants have been recruited and will begin training in April, 2008. They are: Marvin Eckfeldt, Kent FCC; Ron Naff, Longview FCC; Jennifer Prekeges, Edmonds CC; and Sue Scott, Englewood CC (Yakima). We are still seeking a new consultant candidate from the northeast area of the Region.

The Journey of Discovery consultants will host a three hour “Come and See” event for prospective second wave congregations as part of the Regional Assembly activities at Englewood Christian Church in May, 2008. A proposed Second Wave Timeline is shown as attachment 3.

The Journey of Discovery is an exciting and demanding transformation process. Both the consultants and the congregations involved are discovering that transformation requires learning a different way of “being and doing church” in this new millennium. We feel confident that subsequent congregations to embark on the Journey of Discovery will benefit from the experience of those who have led the way as part of the first wave.

While there are a myriad of transformation processes available to congregations, we are convinced that God’s Spirit is at work among those congregations in this Region that are faithfully working their way through the Journey of Discovery process. Their hard work and commitment are helping them discern and realize God’s vision for the future of their congregations.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill and Connie Robey
Regional Co-Coordinator
Journey of Discovery

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1. 2007 Actual vs. Budgeted Expense Report
2. Forecast 2008 Budget
3. Proposed Second Wave Timeline