

February 24, 2009

Journey of Discovery

Report to the Regional Board

February 27, 2009

The Journey of Discovery (JOD) congregational transformation process was formally initiated in the Northwest Region in September, 2005. Nine NW Disciples congregations made up the “first wave” of congregations along with nineteen Presbyterian congregations from four different Presbyteries ranging from central Washington to eastern Montana. Seven of the initial nine Disciples congregations are expected to complete the five phase process at various times during calendar year 2009.

The first wave of the JOD process is being facilitated by Ray Schulte, Managing Director of the Center for Parish Development in Chicago, Illinois. Ray provides training for Regional consultants who work directly with the first wave congregations. Ray normally provides Phase-related cluster training events for the coordinating teams from eastside Disciples and all Presbyterian congregations 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 NW Disciples congregations participating in the first wave of the JOD process, their assigned consultants, and their current status in the process are shown below:

<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Consultant</u>	<u>Current Status</u>
Edmonds CC	Sandy Messick	Completing Phase 4
Puyallup FCC	Connie Robey	Completing Phase 4
Tacoma FCC	Bill and Connie Robey	Beginning Phase 3, Part 2
Bremerton CC	Don Carlson	In Phase 4
Englewood CC	Bill and Connie Robey	Completing Phase 4
United CC (Yakima)	Don Carlson	In Phase 3
North Hill CC	Bill and Connie Robey	Beginning Phase 4

Bellingham Christian Church and Opportunity Christian Church have discontinued their participation in the JOD process.

Consultant training for Phase 5 was completed in Spokane on February 19-20, 2009. Congregational coordinating team training for Phase 5 was conducted by Ray Schulte at Puyallup First Christian Church on February 21, 2009. Teams from Bremerton CC, Edmonds CC, Englewood CC, and Puyallup FCC were present for the training. That same training will be replicated by the first wave consultants for the other three first wave coordinating teams as their congregations approach the end of Phase 4.

A “second wave” of three NW Disciples congregations commenced the Journey of Discovery process in September, 2008. Training for second wave consultants is conducted by the Regional JOD Co-Coordinator while second wave coordinating team training is provided by the second wave consultant team made up of the Co-Coordinator and the four second wave consultants. Ray Schulte provides on-going support for the second wave consultant team on an as-needed basis. Consultant training for Phase 2 was completed on January 31, 2009. Due to weather considerations, Phase 2 training for each congregation’s coordinating team is individually scheduled in February and March, 2009. The second wave congregations, their consultants, and their current status are listed below.

<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Consultant</u>	<u>Current Status</u>
Bellevue Christian Church	Jennifer Prekeges	In Phase 1
Creston Christian Church	Marvin Eckfeldt	In Phase 1
NW United Protestant CC	Sue Scott	In Phase 1

In addition to the consultants listed above, Ron Naff, Longview Christian Church, also is being trained as a second wave JOD consultant.

The amount budgeted for JOD related expenses in 2008 was \$24,813. Actual expenses in 2008 were \$19,118.21 or 77% of the budgeted amount. The difference in budgeted versus actual expenses in 2008 was due, in part, to the fact that the Phase 5 training events originally scheduled for November, 2008, were rescheduled for February, 2009. The total amount budgeted for JOD related expenses in calendar year 2009 is \$17,810. However, this amount does not include the Phase 5 training events that were rescheduled from 2008 into 2009.

The Journey of Discovery is an exciting and demanding transformation process. We’ve seen clear evidence that God’s Spirit is at work in a powerful way among those congregations that are faithfully engaged in the Journey.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill and Connie Robey
 Regional Co-Coordinator
 Journey of Discovery