

TO: Northwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Regional Board of Directors

FROM: NW Regional New Church Companion Team

REPORT: October 2, 2008

#### INTRODUCTION:

What follows is a narrative summary of the Teams meeting on August 28, 2008 at the Regional Office, 4:00 pm till @ 8:00 pm. This was the Teams first meeting since the Regional Assembly in Yakima, May 2008. Current Team members are Rebecca Hale, Sandra Kortum, Christy Bristow, Lisa Minener, Rod Smith, Gary McKee, Joshua Reed, Sarasopa Enari, Jr, and Nadine Burton our New Church Consultant from Church Extension.

#### REFLECTIONS:

1. Members felt very positive about the Assembly event we planned and the positive feedback we received. How great it was to have all our new church Pastors present for that event.
2. We reviewed what current information we had about our new congregations. We noted that on September 20<sup>th</sup>, Journey Christian Church will celebrate its 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary with an Ice Cream Social at their Worship location in Rathdrum, Idaho.
3. Rebecca Hale briefed the group on the activities of the New Beginnings Churches. This was very encouraging and at least three of these congregations are considering "new church starts as a part of their New Beginnings work. We look forward to hearing more about this.
4. Rebecca Hale also briefed us on the status of our relationship with Arturo Crespo, an Assembly Pastor who wishes to join the DOC and start a new Hispanic ministry in the Tri-cities. (Since our meeting the new group has started meeting and we will hear much more about this in the near future.)

#### INTERVIEW:

A portion of our meeting was given over to an update interview with members from Korean Crystal Christian Church. Present from the new congregation were Pastor Youn Su Nam, Hyun Ae Nam, and Sumi Sung. They brought us a current financial statement and a detailed description of Pastor Nam's activities and schedule. These meetings are in keeping with the Regional Grant agreement. The Regional grant concludes in April of 2009. The congregation is growing very slowly. Sunday attendance is between 10-20 and Pastor Nam leads three Bible Study groups during the week and distributes

information about the church in a Korean market area. Pastor Nam's visa restricts him to only doing church work for his living and there is concern (on the Teams part) that when the Regional support is concluded the congregation will not be able to support him and his family. Pastor Nam is now able to apply for a "green card" which would allow him to seek some other kind of part time employment while still serving the church. We all hope for a positive response from the INS as soon as possible on this matter.

#### ACTIONS:

The Team prepared a budget request for the 2009 Regional Budget. The amounts requested were: 1. Team Expenses \$ 500.00; 2. Regional share of National Percept Program \$ 833.00; 3. Small Assistance gifts for New Church such as Materials, Bibles, Camp scholarships, etc. \$ 1,367.00; 4. 2009 portion of Grant to Korean Crystal CC \$ 4,928.00. Total budget requested \$ 7,628.00. Sources of funds for this budget are New Church Development Fund and Regional share of Pentecost Offering.

The Team approved and passed this request on to the Regional Finance Ministry.

#### NEXT MEETING:

The next Team meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup> to begin with lunch following morning worship at Country Homes Christian Church in Spokane. This meeting is planned so that we can meet with the pastors from Journey Christian Church.

#### CHALLENGES FOR THE REGION:

1. The Regional Team is challenged with the need to find more members and members who can help us connect with our new congregations.

2. Perhaps the greatest challenge is to the heart and soul of our Regional Life, and that is to recognize and accept what amazing experiences God holds out to us through these new communities of faith. "The fields are ripe for harvest" and our support for and response to and ministry with these who want to be partners in mission with us will be a transforming journey for all of us, as individuals, as congregations, and as Region.

For the New Church Companion Team  
Rod Smith