

Regional Board Report
October 2008
RISE

The RISE Regional Transformation process, which began in November of 2007, has encountered great richness and sincerity in the region. As we have worked through the collection of root information from Regional church participants which helped informed us as to the “where” of our current status, to now coming upon a creative and fermenting time, it has truly been an amazing journey.

Let me first make sure you know the players. We begin with the RISE team, including Wesley Strait of Opportunity, Spokane, Gary Shoemaker of Bellingham, Sandy Messick of a variety of places, currently Queen Anne, Seattle I believe, Dawn Marie Turner of Ephrata, Cheryl Williams of Tacoma and Rebecca and myself, of Covenant, Spokane. Our role has been to develop this process, find the right people to fill various tasks and oversee the process to its culmination. I cannot thank this group enough for their commitment and clarity, and willingness to take leadership roles throughout this journey. Then, early in 2008, our Vision panel was developed to write a mission, vision and role description. That was then presented to various constituent groups including clergy clusters, congregational clusters and individual churches and the Board. That group included Michael Grogan, Bellevue, Griselda Rivera, Christiana, Seattle, John Williams of Tacoma, Wahhab Baldwin, Friends of the One, Seattle, Redhawk, Covenant, Spokane, Laura Reed, North Hill Spokane, Sandy Messick of -- you know! They were our theological brains and digested the summary information regarding Challenges and Opportunities, Organizational Analysis and other documents that came before them; they listened to congregational voices and crafted the statements for us that you see below. Thank you also to them for their wisdom and gift of languaging. You can also visit the regional website to see all the documents mentioned at www.disciplesnw.org.

Mission

Called by God and sent by the Living Christ, we the Northwest Regional Christian Church intentionally engage with one another rejoicing in our diversity and shared gifts, deepening our spiritual life, building true community, acting courageously in ministry and mission, and sharing God’s good news with a fresh voice and a new song. We seek to “do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God.” (Micah 6:8)

Vision Statement

Called by God’s grace to do together that which by God’s design cannot be done apart, and led by the movement of the Spirit of God,

we proclaim the Northwest Regional Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
to be a community of communities,
valuing our strength in diversity,
honoring and acknowledging our various gifts,
offering them in faithfulness and service to the entire body.

Filled with the joy of God’s presence with us
we share together in hospitality, worship and praise

enriching our lives with scripture and prayer
singing songs of hope, faith and celebration
joining in the gifts of loaf and cup
inviting our neighbors to experience God's abundance.

Created by God as part of the body of Christ in this place
we join together in ministry
strengthening our bond to one another and to God
honoring and supporting those who guide us in God's new doings.

Challenged by the Word of God to live into God's purpose and promise
we embrace ministries of justice and service
provoking one another to love and good deeds
bringing good news to the poor, freeing the oppressed,
healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and clothing the naked.

Inspired by the faith that moves mountains
we pour ourselves out into mission
caring for the earth and her creatures
listening anew for God's Word in each moment
living forward with courage and compassion.

The Northwest Regional Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), with God's help, is living into God's purpose today, and trusting in the promise of God's tomorrow.

The Vision statement and Mission were given to the Regional Assembly body gathered in May 2008 in Yakima. There we began to dream about what exactly the above language might mean in practical terms. We met in small groups in a big room and laughed and danced, dreamed and projected and looked back from our accomplishments as if we were five years into this process. What-- dreaming now-- had we become and how and why were we being God's people? This helped us to find specifics and find value in those specifics.

Now, yet another group, the "roll up your sleeves" group took those dreamed-of accomplishments and began to figure out how we were to get there-REALLY! No easy task, we have divided into three and eventually four design teams. These teams have begun to write our action plan, all those specifics we must have to truly become God's "fresh voice and new song." The Formation Team, Resource Team and Common Life teams once again are headed by willing and able members of our RISE team, partnered with some of our Vision Panel members. This leadership includes Dawn Marie Turner and Laura Reed for Common Life, Sandy Messick and John Williams for Resources and Gary Shoemaker and Wahhab Baldwin for Formation. Our final Design team, the Structure team, will begin its work October 5th and includes Tim Payne of Tacoma, Bill Jennison of North Hill, Spokane, Peter Drury of Seattle and Christy Bristow of Opportunity, Spokane. Their role will be to take the direction of the Design teams and identify the Regional structure necessary to implement those plans. I am attaching the

membership of the other Design teams, so you see the breadth and depth of the service of our region:

Common Life	Formation	Resources
Dawn Marie Turner, co-chair	Gary Shoemaker, co-chair	Sandy Messick, co-chair
Laura Reed, co-chair	Wahhab Baldwin, co-chair	John Williams, co-chair
David Carrigan	Mary Ann Teeters	Debbie Jennison
Cherilyn Williams	Pat Kurtz	Greg Skinner
Eva Walker	Jo Gustafson	Kami Voliva
Lynn Aley	Tamalyn Kralman	Helena Wilson
Lauri Strait	Marvin Eckfeldt	Wes Strait
Virginia Halderman	Nancy Gowler Johnson	Peter Drury, consultant

Thank you to all these tremendous regional leaders, some new to that role and others with years of experience, who have been willing to travel and conference call and dream to get us to this next stage of a written plan. In order to make that happen, a writing team of Sandy Messick, Wahhab Baldwin and Laura Reed has been asked to come together in early November and begin to put the various pieces of our work into one cohesive collection.

The Regional Board will see these plans in early 2009, and they should be complete by spring. Please continue prayerful support of all these players who have danced together to make this happen. Thank you also to Rebecca who has been an incredible support and Ray Schulte, our consultant who helps us make sense of where we are!

In Christ all is possible,
 Edie Rice-Sauer
 RISE chair (with Rebecca Hale)