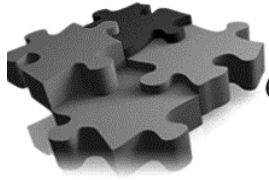


Northwest Passage



Community Connections

Churches of the NWRCC Sharing Notes...
What's Working - What's Happening - Successes - Prayers

Here is a sampling of what's going on around our regional Community of Communities. To add your congregation's story to this list, go to the website, www.disciplesnw.org and click on the Connections tab. Please limit your news item to 2-3 sentences.

First Christian, Kennewick – Has called their interim, Matthew Keith, to be their settled pastor. Together they are moving forward in their vision and ministry.

First Christian, Longview – has called recent Pacific School of Religion graduate Eric Atcheson to be their new pastor. Eric will begin his ministry with the congregation on Sep. 25.

Creston Christian - has called Guy Schmielau to be their new pastor. Guy recently moved with his wife to Washington from Nebraska and began his ministry with Creston on Sep. 1. He will be officially installed on November 13, 2011

First Christian, Port Angeles – pastor David Moffitt has announced his retirement effective the end of November. Their Search Committee is beginning the search for an interim minister.

University Christian, Seattle – Pastor Janetta Cravens Boyd has announced her resignation effective early November. She and her husband, Will, will be moving to Nashville, TN where Will has a job with an email marketing company. Former Associate Minister, Jamie Haskins, has been called to be the new Director of Faith Formation/Chaplain/Instructor of Religious Studies at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri.

Opportunity Christian Spokane – “Standing on the Promises” is the theme of this year’s Women’s Retreat at Zephyr, held Sep. 23-24. Please contact Opportunity Christian Church at (509) 926-3691 for more information.

Lake Washington Christian, Kirkland – will be having a “Work of Our Hands” open house on October 1 from 10am-2pm displaying their congregation’s quilts and other handcrafted items. For more information, www.lwchristian.org

Bellevue Christian, Bellevue - In September BCC shares in the 10th annual Together We Build project -- building Habitat Homes as an interfaith effort to launch a positive response to 9/11. We were one of the founding five -- Christian, Jewish and Muslim, and continue to host the prep kitchen for meals (a BIG effort in its own!). This year we published a cookbook of collected recipes that are Kosher, Hallal, etc. I named it Together We Cook.

Covenant Christian, Spokane – Their ministry with the homeless which has taken the form of a musical choir will once again celebrate with the community in an annual concert on October 28, 2011. HeartSongs from the Voiceless has also now become its own 501c3 organization. Congratulations!



Northwest Passage

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September 2011

REFLECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY...

Rev. Sandy Messick

Energizing Existing Congregations

Every so often I take the time to re-read the mission plan we developed and adopted 2 years ago. I ask myself, “How are we doing?” “What should be our next focus area?” Recently, the executive committee of the Mission Council did the same thing and named “Energizing Existing Congregations” as a focus area for the next year. At our Mission Council meeting in August we spent some time dreaming, imagining, and listening to God and each other about how we could encourage and support transformation among our congregations. Some wonderful and creative ideas were suggested and shared. We all agreed that transformation is happening. We also agreed that though there are things we can do, it is God who transforms, it is God who gives the growth.

I want to share with you some things that are happening to encourage transformation within our region. First, we have formed a Transformation Team that will support and offer resources to congregations seeking to engage in transformation whether they are using one of our regionally supported processes such as New Beginnings or Journey of Discovery or if they need to follow a different path. This team, led by Bill and Connie Robey, met recently for a

day long visioning event and came away with some specific goals for 2012 to provide opportunities for congregations to engage in the conversation around transformation.

Another team is working on forming Clergy Support Groups that would invite our congregational pastors into small covenant groups to support and resource each other as they walk alongside their congregations. We are also engaged with the HOPE Partnership from the General Church about offerings they have for encouraging transformation, and with other Western Regions to partner together to energize existing congregations. Finally, we have designated money for Transformation Grants to be offered to congregations; seed money for new missional initiatives and opportunities. Information on these grants can be found by clicking the link on our website at www.disciplesnw.org

In considering how to support transforming congregations, I am drawn to the image found in the parable of the sower and the seeds. Many seeds are tossed out, not all will bear fruit, but those that fall on good soil produce a hundredfold. In a spirit of experimentation and provisional try, our region seeks to offer many ways (many seeds) for congregations and pastors to receive support as they intentionally seek to follow a new path in a new time. Throughout we trust and celebrate that in God's hands, all things are possible.

Blessings, Sandy Messick

NEWS FROM THE WIDER CHURCH

Celebrate Global Ministries Sunday!

Has your congregation chosen a date to celebrate Global Ministries Sunday this fall? Global Ministries Sunday is a new initiative to help congregations put a face on Disciples and UCC ministries of Critical Presence with partners around the globe. The chosen Sunday will be a special time to focus on global mission education and to take steps to engage in God's mission with Global Ministries. Look for a congregational mailing in early September with a poster that you can personalize with the date of your celebration. For more information and resources, go to: <http://globalministries.org/resources/special-days/gm-sunday/>

Florida Region Welcomes New Regional Minister

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Florida is pleased to announce that on Saturday, August 20, 2011 the Regional Board called the Rev. Dr. Juan Rodriguez to be the next Regional Minister of Florida. Rev. Rodriguez was recently the organizing pastor of Iglesia del Pueblo-Hope Center in Hammond, Ind. He has also served as the First Vice Moderator of the General Assembly during the 2009-2011 biennium. To read his biography, visit: www.disciples.org/Portals/0/PDF/DNS/2011/20110824-RevRodriguezBio.pdf

Dr. Jack Sullivan called as Pennsylvania Regional Minister

On August 20, the Regional Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Pennsylvania elected the Rev. Dr. Jack

Sullivan Jr. of Cleveland, Ohio, to serve as Regional Minister and President. An ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Dr. Sullivan currently serves as Senior Pastor of Fifth Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Cleveland. His prior service includes serving as Regional Minister here in the Northwest Region, pastorates of many congregations and has also served in the Division of Homeland Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as Associate for African American Educational Ministries. You can read more at: www.disciples.org/DisciplesNewsService/tabid/58/itemId/1031/Sullivan-regional-min.aspx!

Children Welcome! From Stumbling Blocks to Building Blocks of Faith

This fifth Children Welcome! Conference will take place at Hillside Christian Church, Kansas City, Missouri, February 23 - 25, 2012. The headquarters hotel is the Embassy Suites at the Kansas City airport. This event is being jointly sponsored by the Disciples and the Presbyterian Church USA. Outreach Opportunities will include donations to Newborns in Need.

Have you seen it yet?

Check out Musings on Mission, a monthly blog from Mission Council Moderator Wahhab Baldwin. <http://musingsonmission.disciplesnw.org/>

TURNER LECTURES

October 10-12, 2011
Englewood Christian Church,
Yakima

Featuring John D. Caputo, this year's Lectures draws its theme from Caputo's book, "What Would Jesus DEconstruct?" Asking the question, Caputo carefully unpacks the "what," the "would," the "Jesus," and the "deconstruct" in his question, to uncover what is really happening in the Church—or what should be!—namely, the Kingdom of God. This he defines as the unruly rule that results if we release what's going on in the name of God—if we let it happen—if the name of God becomes the name of a deed, not a doctrine.

Brochures and online registration available now!

<http://www.disciplesnw.org/whats happening/turnerlectures.html>

REGION & CONFERENCE HOST KOREAN YOUTH

July 20-28 the UCC Conference and our Disciple Region hosted eight young adult women from the Presbyterian Church of South Korea on a youth exchange visit. Our Region has been in partnership with the PROK since 1992 and every other year clergy and lay persons make an exchange visit. In 2010 Tom Blum, Kathy and David Helseth and John Williams were in the delegation that visited overseas. During that visit the dream of hosting a young adult exchange was born. Basic planning was done by Susan Andreson and Terry Teigen (who was on the 2010 exchange) with the help of a few others. We had hoped to include more Disciple youth but conflicting schedules made that difficult.

The young women arrived on July 20 and were hosted at a Welcome BBQ at Normandy Park UCC. They spent two days at church camp at Pilgrim Firs with good interaction with both campers and young adult staff members. A day was spent at Mt. Rainier. Sunday worship at Plymouth they experienced leadership of a woman pastor and the group sang two songs. Visiting some of the urban outreach and justice ministries in Seattle gave cause for some deep theological discussions. A picnic and bon-fire at Golden Gardens Park with young adults from the area concluded the visit.

In discussion with leaders in Korea the following goals for the visit were established:

- The meaning of "faith" in our respective cultures
- Issues of morality, justice and peace being wrestled with in South Korea, the U.S. and in our wider global community
- Exploring the key concerns of young adults who come as delegates and those of their Pacific Northwest hosts

Our Global Ministries Committee, sponsor of the exchange, received a full report at their last meeting and the value of the exchange was affirmed and expressions of appreciation given to the planning committee. There was some discussion that it might be possible to sponsor young adults from here for an exchange to Korea in 2012. Total cost to host the exchange was \$2,376. \$1,050 was contributed by five delegates who were on the 2010 exchange and the Region and the Conference each gave \$650 from Global Ministries Committee funds.

A video of their visit is posted at: <http://vimeo.com/27033191>