



CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN OREGON AND SOUTHWEST IDAHO
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Christian Church in Oregon-Southwest Idaho includes forty-five congregations in the Willamette Valley, in coastal, eastern and southern Oregon, in the Portland metropolitan area and in Southwest Idaho. Among these are seven new and affiliating ministries, five Spanish speaking churches, and one Chuukese congregation. Over twenty percent of congregations started their ministries in the twenty-first century. Over twenty percent celebrate more than one hundred years in ministry.

Doug and Cathy Myers Wirt have served as Co-Regional Ministers since 2001, first of the Oregon regional church and since 2014, with the Oregon and SW Idaho regional church. The regional office shares a building with local offices of the United Church of Christ, American Baptists, Presbyterian Church USA and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, a partnership of over fifty years. Jerry Lang is our Christian Church Foundation representative. Bernice Rivera of our region serves on the General Board, Administrative Committee, and the Mission First Implementation Team. Rebecca Smith, recent past moderator of our region, serves on the General Board as well.

Oregon-SW Idaho is a Global Mission Region. We maintain a global mission partnership with the FEDICE ministry in Ecuador, enjoy visits from FEDICE Executive Director Blanca Puma and send mission trip groups to Ecuador approximately every other year. The next trip is in June 2016. The FEDICE ministry serves indigenous people and churches in northern Ecuador. In addition to this partnership, we continue in relationship with In Kim and Erik Free serving with Global Ministries in Mozambique. In 2015 we sent Erin Donnell from Boise Red Rock Christian Church, to the Middle East through the Woman to Woman Worldwide program of the Disciples Women. Regional Minister Cathy Myers Wirt visited Cuba with Global Ministries in 2015. We have nine Global Mission Congregations in our region. These links strengthen our identity as a Global Mission Region.

Disciples in Oregon-SW Idaho meet in a Regional Assembly in even numbered years in the spring. Our 2016 Regional Assembly will be held in our largest congregation, Northwood Christian Church, May 20-21. Keynote presenters include Director of Week of Compassion, Vy Nguyen, Blanca Puma, Executive Director for FEDICE Ecuador, former General Minister and President, Dick Hamm. At the assembly we will launch our three year future story which we have been crafting over the past two years with the help of Dr. Hamm. We will also launch a new partnership project with FEDICE to create microloans in the community of Romerillos. The regional church will sponsor 3-4 Mission First conversations in September 20, 2016 in conjunction with the visit of James and Jayanthi Wilson, global mission workers for several decades who are retiring this summer. The Wilsons have been long time friends of Disciples here in the Pacific Northwest.

Reconciliation ministries supported by Oregon Disciples include Yakama Christian Mission, Gomer's House recovery program in Portland and the Christmas mission of Peniel Ministries to Sonora, Mexico. In 2016, the region will launch a new effort to train many key leaders in the anti-racism initiative of the whole church. We are in the process of completing a pilot project design for these trainings that will happen this coming fall.

While joining in ministry with nine congregations of the former South Idaho region, the regional church has also welcomed five new congregations in 2015-16. All in the Portland area, these churches include La Viña (Troutdale), Pacific Islands Family Church (Portland), Saint Johns Community Church (Portland) and Christ Church (Portland). The regional New Church Team has approved a fifth congregation for consideration by the regional board as a Disciples related new church start. Pacific Islands Family Church hosted an Easter Rally with Chuukese Disciples from Maundy Thursday through Easter in 2016.

In 2015, Disciples in the Snake River District asked the regional church to assist with four youth camps, in addition to those operated in Oregon. Snake River Disciples operate Cascade Christian Camp, formerly associated with the Christian Church in South Idaho. Cascade Christian Camp received its own federal tax exemption in 2015, and has its own board of directors to oversee the facilities. Over 150 youth and children participated in Disciples related camps in Oregon and SW Idaho during 2015.

Women's ministries also reflect the new partnership between Oregon and Idaho Disciples. Women in the region now have many options for coming together, in August at Cascade, Idaho, in October in the Portland area, and in the spring at multiple locations for the annual Pray and Play days. Disciples women in the region engage in many efforts of mission giving and service projects, such as support for Basic Mission Finance, the Blessing Box offerings and a current effort in partnership with a widows' ministry in Mozambique with global ministries workers Kim and Erik Free.

Men's ministries in the regional church have mostly met as congregational groups in recent years. However, men's groups have had several meetings between several congregations in 2015. Rev. James Hobbs, Pastor of Trees of Righteousness Christian Church, has led the work of bringing men together in the region for faith sharing and friendship.

In 2015-2016 our regional church, has had three young adults commissioned to participate in the XPLO program of NBA. The director of NBA XPLO spoke to our regional board during one of our meetings. We dedicated the three interims during a worship service in August at Salem First Christian Church.

The Regional Ministers for the Oregon-SW Idaho region have worked in concert with Disciples and ecumenical partners in several capacities. Cathy Myers Wirt serves as a member of the National Benevolent Association Board of Directors and as President-Elect of the College of Regional Ministers. Doug Wirt recently completed his term as President for the Board of Directors of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and serves on the boards for Olive Plaza, Mattie Younkin Manor, and Powell Vista Manor, senior housing units started by NBA. With several more former NBA units in Idaho, Disciples in the region have worked in a number of locations with Christian Church Homes to explore future partnership in service to seniors in local communities.

In 2016, we give thanks for friends in Christ within congregations, in the regional and local church, ecumenically and internationally. This great cloud of witness blesses and strengthens our ministries in Oregon and Southwest Idaho and to the ends of the earth.

Recommended Action

On behalf of the General Board, the Administrative Committee receives the report from the Christian Church in Oregon and Southwest Idaho.