



Northwest Passage

Northwest Regional Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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REFLECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY...

Rev. Sandy Messick

(A continuing series of articles reflecting on the Objectives outlined in our Regional Ministry Plan)

Worship and Music

I've recently returned home from the General Assembly and now am starting to hear the reflections of those in attendance. There are comments about the setting, the beautiful weather in Indianapolis, the state of this resolution or that. But the majority of the comments I'm hearing are about the worship services. Some greatly appreciated the variety of preachers, some not so much. Others loved the music, others found it too loud, or otherwise not as meaningful. For some, the theology in the preaching raised eyebrows, for others it felt right at home. The diversity of responses reflects the diversity of our congregations and people. As much as we are one church, we worship in a variety of ways.

Our third objective identified in our Ministry Plan is around Worship and Music. We describe it this way: "Understanding that worship stands at the heart of the Christian community and that in worship we come to understand ourselves as one Body, the people of God, we commit to regional life centered in worship, creating:

- Services of Word and Table rich with tradition while attuned to modern needs
- Opportunities for music and praise

incorporating a wide variety of forms that will elevate the soul to soaring heights

- Occasions for prayer that engage emotion and intellect and speak clearly to God
- Times of silent meditation that create space for God to be heard
- Worship that lifts up key elements associated with the Christian Church (DOC) and incorporates new forms of worship reflective of our diversity."

The Ministry Plan doesn't define the ways we will worship in our Regional gatherings, but lifts up the elements that are important and challenges us to find ways to reflect the diversity of styles found among our congregations. This means incorporating elements from our ethnic congregations, as well as singing familiar hymns that many of us have sung since childhood (recognizing that even what is familiar to one, is new to another.) It means celebrating communion in a variety of ways, and including space for quiet meditation and reflection. Most importantly it means keeping worship as a central part of how we come together, how we experience God together, and how we are formed as a community together. I look forward to opportunities to worship with you not only in your congregations, but especially in those sacred moments when we gather as Regional Church.

Blessings,
Sandy

NWRCC Mission Statement

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)

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NW CONGREGATIONS MAKING THE TOP TEN

Congratulations to the following congregations who are in the top 10% of all Disciples congregations for their size in terms of baptisms and total additions according to the 2009 Yearbook.

In number of **baptisms** over the past year:

Congregations with 51-100 members:

First Christian, Clarkston (19)

All Pilgrims, Seattle (5)

First Christian, Waitsburg (7)

Congregations with 101-150 members:

Opportunity Christian, Spokane (10)

In number of **total additions** over the past year:

Congregations with 51-100 members:

First Christian, Clarkston (31)

Northwest Christian, Seattle (11)

Congregations with 101-150 members:

Country Homes Christian, Spokane (20)

FOR THE CALENDAR:

The Transition Team is meeting in Yakima on Aug. 22 to begin to prioritize and strategize our objectives for the coming year and plan for the transition into our new regional structure. Please keep the Transition team in your prayers: Cheryl Williams, Edie Rice-Sauer, Wahhab Baldwin, Lauri Clark-Strait, Justin Umbright, Miguel Rivera, Bill and Connie Robey, Debbie Jennison, Jo Gustafson, and Sandy Messick.



Mission Week at Yakama Christian Mission

Sponsored by Disciples Home Missions September 24-October 3, 2009

Come for a day, or the entire ten days!

Scope of work to be completed: #1 – Friendship House: caulk and paint new siding; #2 – Parsonage: tear off existing roof, clean out and replace attic insulation, put on new roof, gut the inside; #3 – Log Church: several repair projects, including log replacement and re-chinking.

All volunteers for this project will be fed and housed at the Yakama Christian Center.

For more details, costs and registration visit:

<http://www.disciplesnw.org/docs/2009FallYakamaMissionVolunteerWeekInfoReq.pdf>

COMMON TABLE GATHERING AND INSTALLATION SERVICE, OCT. 17, 2009

First Christian Church, Tacoma
We will spend the morning in a shared meeting with the Regional Board and the Interim Mission Council. The afternoon will be a worship celebrating the installation of our Regional Minister and President, Sandy Messick (begins at 2pm). General Minister and President, Sharon Watkins, will be with us at the installation service. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

ANOTHER CAMP SEASON DRAWS TO A CLOSE

It began with Kids Camp/Jr. Camp at Gwinwood on July 6 and ended with Jr. Camp at Zephyr on Aug. 15. In between our Region hosted 144 young people at camps for ages ranging from entering 2nd grade to recent high school graduates. Our camping program would not be possible without the dedicated commitment of our Directors, Counselors, Counselors-in-Training, and our relationships with our two church-owned camps Gwinwood and Zephyr. Special thanks go to our Directors: Becky Metcalf, Rochelle Richards, Mike Grogan, Kerry Grogan, Dixie and David Carringer, Lauri Clark-Strait, David Helseth, Dawn Marie Turner and Kami Voliva. Also a round of applause goes to our Office Coordinator, Amber Saladino, for keeping track of registrations, forms, materials, and reimbursement requests. Because of these volunteers, our young people have had the opportunity to grow in relationships with each other and with God. Thank you!