



# Northwest Passage

Northwest Regional Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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## REFLECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY...

Rev. Sandy Messick

*(This is the first in a series of articles reflecting on the Objectives outlined in our Regional Mission Plan)*

And so it begins... June marks the beginning not only of my ministry with you as Regional Minister and President, but also the beginning of the living out of our Mission Plan. We affirmed the Mission Plan at the Regional Assembly in May. As we are all too aware, it's one thing to write it down; another to bring it to life. As we begin to put our dreams and vision into action, I plan to use this space to reflect upon the importance of each objective, why it's important, and how it fits into the vision.

This month, I begin at the beginning with our first objective: "Teach, model, and encourage open communication." In every church I've served there has been a "they." You know who "they" are. "They" are the ones who make all the decisions. "They" are the ones who say no to all my good ideas. "They" are the ones who are keeping us from growing, or always wanting to change things, or secretly making all the decisions. Apparently, "they" exist on the Regional and General level of the church as well. Of course, in reality "they" are us. We are the church. We are the ones charged with the living out of the mission and the

carrying out of God's vision in the world. But the perception of "they" comes about when there is a lack of communication and trust within a congregation or organization, and when there is a lack of shared vision for who we are to be and what we are called to do.

Our first objective is an intentional response to "they." It charges us to listen to one another, *especially when we disagree* (emphasis mine). It charges us to ground our decision-making in prayer and discernment; in other words, to listen for God's voice and to seek God's leading rather than our own desires. And it charges us to create settings that foster faith development and the sharing of the Good News. As we create the opportunities for communication and as we learn to listen to each other and to Spirit, we are knit together in a common purpose and move away from us versus them. We celebrate becoming "we."

Grateful to be in ministry with you,  
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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## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS...

What's happening in the communities that make up the Northwest Regional Christian Church?. Each month we will feature news from around the Region in this space. We want to know what's going on in your local congregation! To tell us about what's happening, go to the website and click on "Connections", fill out the form and hit send!

First Christian, Kent has voted to call Rev. Bob Brooks as their next pastor. He will be completing his current ministry in West Virginia and will be moving to Kent later this summer.

United Christian, Yakima installed Tabitha Anderson as co-pastor on June 14, 2009. Tabitha has been serving the congregation for several years along with her husband, Eric.

Englewood Christian, Yakima, is moving forward in the Journey of Discovery process. They will consider their Ministry Plan at an upcoming board meeting and recently received training in Phase 5 of the Journey.

Edmonds Christian is also moving forward with their Ministry Plan. They recently officially became an Open and Affirming Congregation as part of the living out of their Vision Statement.

## BROADCASTING ON ALL CHANNELS!

As part of our commitment to increasing our ways of communicating with each other and connecting congregations, we are always on the lookout for different ways to share information around the Region. Here are new opportunities to connect:

- We now have a Facebook group with over 100 members! If you are on Facebook and haven't joined yet, take a moment to sign up. Once there, check out the discussion boards. We currently have discussions going about camps, General Assembly, and a Meet and Greet to say who you are and where you're

from. Upcoming events around the Region will also be posted on the Facebook page.

- On the Website there is a new Connections page with links to blogs, podcasts, and videos from our congregations and pastors. Check it out to see what other congregations are talking about, or contact Amber to have your site included.

- Because we know not everyone is "online" we need a means to get information out to those not receiving Regional emails or posting on Facebook. This is where we need your help. Postage costs and staffing restrict the amount of mailing we can do, but if every congregation had a volunteer willing to print out and post regional emails and important website information, those offline could be brought into the communication loop. If you are such a person in your congregation, check with your pastor about volunteering to be the Regional Connector. (And see to it that the Northwest Passage gets posted or included in a bulletin or newsletter as well!)

## SUMMER CAMPING SEASON IS ALMOST HERE!

Registration deadlines are looming for the first of our summer camps. Registration forms can be found at: <http://www.disciplesnw.org/whats happening/summercamp.html> . Counselors are still needed! Please contact the Regional Office for more information.

### Zephyr (Eastern Washington)

Kids (grades 2 & 3) Aug. 10 - Aug 13  
Junior (4, 5 & 6) Aug. 10 - Aug 15  
Chi Rho (7, 8 & 9) July 20 – July 25  
CYF (10, 11, 12 & Grads) July 20 – July 25

### Gwinwood (Western Washington)

Kids (grades 2 & 3) July 6 – July 9  
Junior (4, 5 & 6) July 6 – July 11  
Chi Rho (7, 8 & 9) July 13 – July 18  
CYF (10, 11, 12 & Grads) July 13 – July 18