



Northwest Passage

Northwest Regional Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

18000 72nd Ave S. Suite 171, Kent, WA 98032
P: 253-893-7202 F: 425-251-4937
www.disciplesnw.org

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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)

Our First Common Table Gathering...

On Saturday, October 17 at First Christian, Tacoma, we held our first Common Table Gathering as part of living into our new structure and vision for the Region. The Common Table is not a committee but an event and what an event it was! On Friday evening the Regional Board convened to address the business of the region. The focus was largely on working through and approving the budget for 2010. Saturday morning, the board, Interim Mission Council and interested participants gathered to focus on the mission of the region. Transition team members, Jo Gustafson and Wahhab Baldwin, led us in opening worship that challenged us to listen for God's word through scripture, silence, conversation, prayer, and song. We were invited to listen with the heart for the voice of God speaking through scripture after setting aside the voices of cynicism, judgment and fear. The worship was inviting and enriching and opened the way for the conversation to follow.

Regional Moderator, Cheryl Williams, and Interim Mission Council Moderator, Edie Rice-Sauer, then led conversation about the new structure for the region and what the Mission Council and Common Table might be. After the presentation, there was time for conversation. We shared our hopes and visions for where this new structure might lead in terms of mission, ministry, and community. We also named the potential losses as we move into new ways of being together.

We then turned to the specific focus areas for our life together in the coming months. We heard reports from those beginning to work on Youth Ministries, Stewardship, Mission and Sending, Pro-Reconciliation, New Church Ministries, and Regional Office Space. Again, there was opportunity for conversation as we asked questions, shared some ideas, and began to name the connections between the different focus areas.

We closed the morning session by returning to worship and celebrating God's presence in our midst.

Lunch provided the opportunity for fellowship and connecting with others from across the region. The day was capped off by worship in the afternoon as we celebrated the official beginning of our ministry together with my installation as Regional Minister and President. It was a joyous day and I've heard many positive responses and hopes from our first Common Table event and great anticipation for our next gathering as regional community of communities.

During the Installation service, the congregation was invited to write their prayers for my ministry and/or for the Northwest Region. Those prayers were later presented to me to hold and carry on behalf of the region. After the service, I spent time in prayer with each card asking God to bless both the prayer and the one who offered the prayer. When those prayers were written on the cards, they were individual prayers, but as I hold them for us in common, they become our shared prayers. Please know, I will continue to hold those prayers in the coming months and year and add to them the prayers we will adopt together as we live forward into God's vision for this region and our life together.

Blessings,
Sandy

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Sandy's Travel Log

Ever wonder where the Regional Minister is or where she might be heading next? You can see her travel log on the regional website. It is listed under the "Our Community" tab from the home page.

Our Northwest Witness...

Dr. Doug Dornhecker, Northwest Disciples pastor serving at St. John's Episcopal church in Olympia, was the speaker at the 2009 Founder's Day celebration at Northwest Christian University in Oregon on October 2. His address focused on Christian Unity as was titled "Exuberantly One."

Did you Know...

Did you know that the Northwest Regional Christian Church currently has connections with seven seminarians in Chicago, Fort Worth, and Seattle? As school begins this fall we ask that you would keep these students in your own prayers and within the prayers of your congregation. We give thanks for these students, for their passion and their commitment to serve the church. Guiding them through an in-care process during the years of their study is a privilege and an honor for us. We thank Laurie Rudel, the denominational representative and liturgical coordinator for Disciple students at the Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry for collecting the bios and photos of these students. You can read more about each one at: <http://www.disciplesnw.org/ourwork/commissiononministry.html>

Faithfully yours,
The Commission on Ministry

Thanksgiving Special Offering to support Higher Education

In November, congregations throughout the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will be collecting a Thanksgiving Offering. The offering directly benefits our 14 colleges/universities and 7 seminaries, divinity houses, and theological foundations. Minkook Um, a theological student supported by Disciples Seminary Foundation, recently remarked, "I am empowered to study for ministry. Your gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering make it possible for students like me to attend seminary." (Disciples Seminary Foundation (DSF) serves God through the formation and support of emerging theological leaders on the West coast for diverse Christian communities. DSF's ministry is made possible through faithful gifts to Disciples Mission Fund.)

The Thanksgiving Offering materials have been sent to local congregations. (Additional material can be found at www.disciplesmissionfund.org.) On November 8 and November 15, Disciples will be asked to contribute to this special offering. Your generosity for Disciples Mission Fund will support leader development through Disciples higher education institutions.

Mark Your Calendars...

November 14, 2009 – Interim Mission Council meeting at Englewood CC, Yakima

May 21-23, 2010– Regional Assembly at North Hill Christian Church, Spokane

Summer Camp 2010

Gwinwood

Kids July 7-10

Junior July 6-10

ChiRho/CYF July 12-17

Zephyr

Kids July 12-16

Junior July 12-17

ChiRho/CYF July 19-24

