

## NEWS FROM THE WIDER CHURCH

### Lexington Theological announces faculty search

Lexington Theological Seminary announces search for adjunct faculty to teach courses in its new online program that integrates intellectual, spiritual and practical elements of congregational life and leadership. Positions are available in the following areas: Pastoral Care, Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, African American and Hispanic church life (preaching, worship, education, leadership/administration). Ph.D. or ABD is preferred; but for some courses, significant experience in congregational ministry and advanced knowledge of the relevant literature will be considered. Candidates must demonstrate abilities to critique culture and apply their discipline to contexts of ministry. Candidates must also demonstrate strong technological skills and pedagogical experience that have prepared them to teach in an LMS environment (with discussion boards, chat rooms, online quizzes, online community formation, etc.), use PowerPoint with audio and video to be converted into online Flash videos, and agility with Web 2.0 tools to enhance course interaction. For information about LTS see [www.lextheo.edu](http://www.lextheo.edu). Applications will begin being reviewed on April 15 and continue until the positions are filled. Applicants should email a c.v., and a letter of application, and have two letters of reference emailed to [adjuncts\\_search@lextheo.edu](mailto:adjuncts_search@lextheo.edu).

### 2010 Pastors Conference, September 21-23, San Diego, CA

The annual pastors conference will take place on the west coast this year, in sunny San Diego, Sept. 21-23. Renowned author and theologian, Diana Butler Bass will be the keynote speaker. Bass is an expert on congregations that are progressive, mainline, revitalizing and growing spiritually as well as numerically. Other presenters are Randy Spleth, Senior minister at Geist Christian Church in Indianapolis, and Juan Rodriguez, Senior Minister of Iglesia de Pueblo de Hope Center and first vice moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples). Registrations is open at [www.disciples.org/ogmp](http://www.disciples.org/ogmp). Cost is \$400 which includes a single room, airport transfer, event registration, opening dinner, two breakfasts and one lunch. Pastors are encouraged to attend, and congregations are encouraged to help their pastors find the resources to attend.

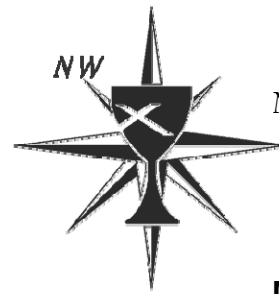
### Central Rocky Mountain Region Calls Jose Morales to Transitional Position

*Disciples News Service, March 11, 2010*

Jose Morales Jr., a speaker, writer, and pastor, has been called to be the Transitional Regional Minister for the Central Rocky Mountain Region. Morales recently served as associate pastor of Iglesia del Pueblo - Hope Center - Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Hammond, Ind. He also was a morning worship speaker at the 2009 General Assembly in Indianapolis. Morales earned a bachelor's degree from Judson College and a Master of Divinity degree from McCormick Theological Seminary, where he serves on the board of trustees. He is fluent in Spanish and English and hopes to strengthen the Central Rocky Mountain Region's youth ministry and reach out to its Spanish-speaking as well as other racial-ethnic groups. To see more, go to: [www.disciples.org/Portals/0/PDF/DNS/2010/20100311-BioJoseMorales.pdf](http://www.disciples.org/Portals/0/PDF/DNS/2010/20100311-BioJoseMorales.pdf)



Jose Morales Jr.



18000 72nd Ave S. Suite 171, Kent, WA 98032

P: 253-893-7202

F: 425-251-4937

[www.disciplesnw.org](http://www.disciplesnw.org)

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## REFLECTIONS ON THE LENTEN JOURNEY...

Rev. Sandy Messick

### When is the ending not the end?

During this season of Lent I am more aware than ever that so many of our congregations are at transition points in their lives and ministry. During this season I find myself meeting with Search Committees in various stages of their processes, congregations in one of our two transformational programs, New Beginnings and Journey of Discovery, congregations welcoming new pastors and saying goodbye to pastors who have served faithfully over the years, and congregations facing difficult decisions about their futures, their ministries, and their relationship to the communities they serve. Each of these transitions requires a death of sorts. It requires a letting go: be it of expectations or hopes, the ways things have always been, the presence of a past leader, a worship setting that still feels comfortable but no longer speaks to a new generation or...you get the idea. Even when change is good, filled with anticipation and excitement, there is still something that isn't anymore. With that change, there is grief, and it is good and right to recognize and name that grief.

But the Easter story tells us that letting go doesn't mean giving up. The Easter story reminds us that when held in Spirit's embrace, death is not the end, but only the opportunity for new life to begin again. It is difficult to let go, and grief is a natural part of the process, but in the end, it is as we lay

*(Continued on inside)*

## IN REGIONAL LEADERSHIP? IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING ...

We're living into our mission plan! You've heard the terms thrown around ... Mission Council ... Board ... Common Table ... and you may be wondering where you fit in. Well, you could go look at that really long Mission Plan document, or you can look at these simple breakouts. Mission Council includes the folks who are doing the programming work of the region like Commission on Ministry, youth work, camps, new church companions, Turner Lectures, Regional Assembly planners and so on. The MC will meet as a group probably twice a year. The board is that set of folks elected at the 2008 Regional Assembly and includes the officers and area representatives of the region as well as two members of Regional Youth Council. The bylaws indicate this group meets at least three times a year.

The Common Table is all of the above and then some. *Anyone* - pastors, members without fancy titles, retired clergy, Sunday School teachers, students, deacons - that is, EVERYONE from our congregations is welcome to attend the Common Table. (We just need paid reservations for lunch so we have enough places to sit.) We hope these will occur at least once in assembly years and maybe twice other years.

No matter what, every time we gather, God is there!

Please keep your regional leadership and all those who will gather in Cle Elum at the Common Table on March 20 in prayer as we continue to live forward into our vision and mission.

*Cherilyn Williams*, Regional Board Moderator

# Northwest Passage

(Continued from page 1)

things down that new life has room to grow. Perhaps it will be embracing new leadership, ministering in new ways or to new communities, discovering new possibilities, or leaving a legacy for a future generation. I am grateful for this "yeasty" time in our Region when new life is happening in our congregations and in the region as a whole and new ideas are springing forth and taking root. It is a great honor to walk beside you through these seasons as we explore the possibilities together. Be it congregation, region, general church, or even our individual lives, we may not know all that the future holds, but by the grace of God, we know Who holds the future.

Blessings on this journey,  
Sandy

## SACRED CONVERSATIONS WITH NEW AND EMERGING CONGREGATIONS – APRIL 10, 2010

One of our identified priorities for this year has been to take a fresh look at how we as Region support and nurture new and emerging congregations. On April 10 at Gwinwood Conference Center from 10am-3pm, the Region will be hosting sacred conversations with representatives from our new congregations, congregations who have committed to planting new congregations, representatives from the New Church Companions Team and Regional Board, and others interested in supporting new congregations within the Northwest Region. Originally titled "New Church Summit" the name was changed to reflect the holy and sacred nature of these conversations as we seek to live more deeply into our partnership and shared ministry with new and emerging congregations. For more information, please contact Bill Robey or Wahhab Baldwin.

## CONNECTING IN MISSION – OUR ANNUAL FUND INVITATION GOES ONLINE!

Now you can donate to the Northwest Region with a credit card and a click of a button! In response to the request of many, we are now providing the opportunity to donate online. It's fast, secure, and an easy way to support the work of the Northwest Region, and as always is a tax deductible donation. To donate online please visit <http://www.disciplesnw.org/ourwork/annualfund.html>, click on the "Make a Donation" button at the bottom of the page to be directed to a secure webpage. Support from individuals through the Annual Fund is one of the ways we underwrite the ministry of the Northwest Region. Thank you for your ongoing and generous support.



## REGIONAL ASSEMBLY INFO & REGISTRATION IS NOW AVAILABLE AND ONLINE!

Registration forms are now available for the **Regional Assembly, May 21-23 in Spokane, WA**. Registration packets have been mailed to all congregations. Registration forms are also available on our website: [www.disciplesnw.org](http://www.disciplesnw.org). (click the Poured Out in Mission button) **New this year:** You can register for the Assembly online and pay by credit card.

The Assembly planning team has done a wonderful job bringing to life our theme "Poured Out in Mission." From the worship services, to the pre-assembly mission projects, to the Saturday night dinner and concert from the Voiceless Choir, to the Saturday afternoon interest groups, to the Mission Fair featuring each of our congregations serving in mission, there will be ample opportunities to explore, participate, learn, and celebrate our call to be poured out in mission to the world. From children to youth to middle-aged to older than that, there is something for all ages. Plan to attend! See you in Spokane.



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](http://www.disciplesnw.org) and click on the Connections tab. Please limit your news item to 2-3 sentences.

**Queen Anne CC, Seattle** – For the past 5 years the Lily Endowment has been funding a 9 day summer collegium for churches with worshipping congregations of less than 100. Queen Anne Christian Church in Seattle is one of 25 churches of 175 applicants to be accepted for this year's collegium in June. Rev. Laurie Rudel and her partner Barb Scamman will be attending the fully paid continuing education event. Congratulations Queen Anne Christian Church!

**Creston Christian Church, Creston** – will celebrate the retirement of their pastor, Don Hoffman, with a Retirement/Going Away Dinner on April 11. Don and Melody will conclude their ministry on that day and have made plans to relocate to the west side of the mountains. Congratulations!

**Opportunity Christian Church, Spokane** — We prepared and sent 33 Hygiene kits to Church World Service for Haiti. We sent collected and sent \$510 to WOC for Haiti. Our youth collected and took to the food bank \$127 plus 197 lbs of food for the Souper Bowl of Caring.

## REGIONAL PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

As part of our effort to increase communication within the Region and to offer support to our Regional Minister, a Pastoral Relations Committee has been formed. This committee meets at least once/quarter to offer support, encouragement, and guidance for Sandy Messick in her role as Regional Minister. This is also the committee that would help Sandy address concerns raised about her performance or role. If you have a concern or comment to share, you are encouraged to share it first with Sandy. If it cannot be resolved, or if you feel it has not been heard or addressed, you may share your concerns, comments or praises with the PRC. The representatives are selected by the Regional Board Moderator in conversation with the Regional Minister, and appointed by the Regional Board. Currently serving are:

Bill Jennison – convener, North Hill CC, Spokane  
Debbie Little - FCC, Bremerton  
Bill Bailey – University CC, Seattle

Debbie Starkey – Creston  
Joan Dennehy - Findlay St., Seattle

*Please call or email the Regional Office for contact information if needed.*