



May 20, 2022

Dear Disciples Neighbors,

In 2001, Disciples launched our 2020 Vision. Disciples have started over 1,000 new ministries in North America in twenty years. Out of the forty-five congregations in this region, over one quarter have come into the life of Disciples during the twenty-first century. The love of Jesus Christ calls out through languages and to generations in more and greater ways than if Disciples had no vision for new congregations. In the Oregon SW Idaho regional church, six new and affiliating ministries meet every week, worshipping in three languages. Without new church ministries, the Oregon-SW Idaho region would number fewer than three dozen congregations. More importantly, Disciples reach more people and places in a wider variety of languages, cultures and generations than would otherwise be possible.

This year, we will acknowledge as fully recognized congregations: **Portsmouth Union Church**, with dual denominational affiliation – United Methodist and Christian Church, (Disciples of Christ), **Iglesia Nueva Vida**, and **Pacific Islands Family Church**. Six more ministries are at different stages of the affiliating or the congregation in formation process. These include: ♦ **Boise, Pacific Outreach Christian Church** ♦ **Hillsboro, Rio de Dios** ♦ **Keizer, Iglesia Cristiana Jehova Nisi** ♦ **Portland, Iglesia Cristiana Principe de Paz** ♦ **Salem, Chuukese Fellowship Church of Christ** and **Vancouver, Pacific Island Family Church**.

New church congregations are innovating in reaching out with the Gospel. Most now have worship services in person again. Some are still streaming online worship, reaching in their ministry as far as Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador such as **Jehova Nisi** did.

Many congregations have found creative ways to continue worship in new ways and to look to the needs of their local communities. For example, **Iglesia Principe de Paz** is now broadcasting via radio. **Portsmouth Union** is in the process of building affordable housing on their property. In partnership with Portland City Council, they open a homeless shelter facility during winter months also. **Rios de Dios** works with young families. They know what it means to accompany people (acompañamiento) in difficult times by providing meals for family in quarantine. **Pacific Islands Family Church** worshiped online for a time with other Chuukese Ministries in multiple states and then started a new ministry in **Vancouver**, meeting at First Christian Church Vancouver. In Salem, **Chuukese Fellowship Church of Christ** organized a spring break youth rally with people from multiple states.

The connections between Disciples within the regional church have grown wider and deeper. More than this, new church ministries extend the reach of Disciples of Christ, and of Christ to new communities and new people. **Disciples support new church ministries through the Pentecost Offering each year. Half of each dollar given supports ministries within the regional church and half goes to Disciples New Church Ministry to provide training and support.** You can be part of this wherever you live through gifts to the Pentecost Offering. This year the days for this special offering in worship will be May 28 and June 5.

So this year, we're asking you to lift up the Pentecost offering and lift up your thanks to God for **pastors who start churches and people who respond**, for **congregations that offer space** to meet and **Disciples partners who catch the vision**. If your congregation does not observe the Pentecost offering, you can give online at <https://disciplesmissionfund.org/give/> Thanks to you and thanks to God, who is always doing a new thing.

Bernice Rivera, Murray Hills and **Alicia Speidel**, Hood River for the regional **New Church Ministry Team**.