

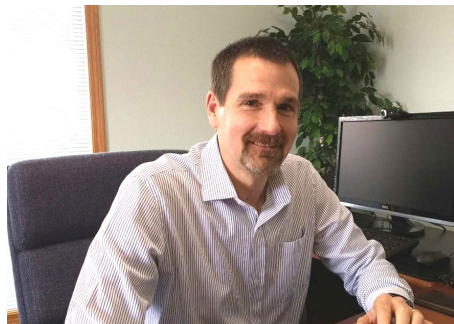


Association of  
the Churches  
of God  
in Oregon and  
Southwest  
Washington

## Project IMAGINE: Team Members

See Page 5

### Multi-Regional Forum Impressions



**Rev. Jerry Davisson**  
District Pastor

I want to start by saying a big thank you to all who participated in our three multi-regional forums held in October. Thank you also goes to our host churches, Redmond, Mt. Scott and Eugene. Each forum had a unique feel and discussion, reminding me we have many distinct perspectives and challenges facing our Association. There were several important impressions I walked away with.

The first was how important our connection is as an Association of the Churches of God. We are truly blessed to be part of not only the Church of God in Oregon and Southwest Washington, but we are also blessed to be a part of what God is up to

around the world. As individual churches we are not alone in our efforts and desire to see the Kingdom of God advance and lives changed by the powerful message of Jesus. We have a lot to offer each other but we need to look beyond our own church ministry and work together to make us each stronger.

The second impression I got was, even though we have such a rich heritage and connection, we have some relational work to do. There is some distrust and differences we need to address in a loving and grace filled manner before we will be able to move together. These are challenges that only Holy Spirit will be able to see us through. I was encouraged that nearly all of those who participated in the Mt. Scott forum stood to make a commitment to pray for 30 days to see God do a work in our Association. The call was to first ask God to search our own heart. The psalmist wrote in Psalm 139:23-24:

*Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.  
See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

We each need to lay bare before God. To check our motives and humble ourselves in the presence of the Almighty. Second, we committed to pray for our Association. To make sure we are not making plans and asking God to bless them, but asking God, what would you have us do? These are challenging days to be sure. However, if we seek God and follow the leading of Holy Spirit our future is bright. I love the way Eugene Peterson translates one of my life verses, Proverbs 3:5-7:

*Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track. Don't assume that you know it all. Run to God! Run from evil!*

These are words to live by as we seek to build the Kingdom of God in Oregon and Southwest Washington! I asked the Eugene forum to join the prayer movement and I am challenging everyone in our Association to join as well!

If you weren't able to make it to one of the forums, Jackie Scott compiled some notes that will be shared on our website after the Council has had an opportunity to discuss them. If you have something you feel is of value to our leadership team you can send your comments to the district office or email us at [districtoffice@orwacog.org](mailto:districtoffice@orwacog.org).

THE CONTACT

November 2017

Volume 4 Issue 11

E-Contact

# CWC: Women Changing the World

*By Pastor Denise Douglas, Portland, OR*

Daytona Beach, Florida. A draw on all its own: beautiful beaches, warm water, great sea food. But the real attraction this week has been the Christian Women's Connection Conference: Women Changing the World. Several NW women journeyed south to participate and have been enriched for having made the journey.

The keynote speakers: Melissa Pratt, Mary Ann Martinez-Garcia, Allyson Smith, and Cheryl Sanders, have reminded us that God continues to call women to places of ministry that change the world!

Our leaders have helped us draw lessons and strength from Biblical women who served a mighty God—Mary, Mother of Jesus, Deborah, Esther, and Anna.

We've heard from women long in leadership in the Church of God, such as Dr. Rev. Vivian Moore, and those just starting out, such as Mary Stephens, recently called as a senior pastor in Indiana. What became clear is that the future of the Church of God is in good hands with young women being called and finding that they DO HAVE a place in the church to serve—God is opening doors for them to serve and bring the good news of Christ to churches and communities.

CWC is a tremendous support to the ministry of the Church of God and is one organization that has actually been able to bring diversity to its leadership and to its constituency.

We have God, who will not stop bringing His message of love and redemption to a broken world, and we, daughters of the King, are privileged to serve, hand-in-hand with each other, the world Jesus loves.



**Above: One of the general sessions at CWC Daytona  
Below L to R: Oregon/SW Washington delegates, Toni Johnson, Nancy Kernutt, Denise Douglas, Rebecca Sander, (Gary) and Leslie Duclo, before the evening service.**



## *Editor's Note:*

*Our own Pastor Denise Douglas, of Mt. Scott Church of God in Portland, led a workshop on "Changing the Heart" and how we relate to others. The convention was held at Daytona Beach Hilton Oceanfront Resort, October 26-29. Plan now to attend the next CWC Convention, 2019, in Myrtle Beach, NC.*



# Dinosaur Slide Remake for Community Playground

Pastor Robin Brooke, of Valley Hope Community Church in Hillsboro, Oregon, along with husband Trevor, are pictured here in the midst of a dinosaur slide remake to enhance the community playground. The fiberglass dinosaur slide is a "landmark," according to friend Matthew Johnson, who posts "I still hear people refer to Valley Hope as the 'dinosaur slide church.';

Pastor Robin says "Most of his toes were either partially or totally missing. He now has 20! The big 'bite' out of his back has been repaired, other holes fixed, and [the area] around the eyes has been filled and reshaped." The Brookes appreciate the help of Jeff Marble and Laura Baxter.

The process? Many hours over a three-week period of "wash, foam, cut, wash, fiberglass, putty, sand, wash, fiberglass, sand, etc." And lot of trips to Home Depot! Robin adds, "A lot of washing because, apparently, the kids can't wait!" Neither can Pastor Robin, as the paint job gets underway. Additional pictures are posted on Valley Hope's Facebook page.



## Willamette Valley Campmeeting Returns and Grows

*By Associate Pastor Steve Kufeldt  
Hoodview COG, Woodburn, Oregon*

The Willamette Valley Campmeeting returns for its third year and continues to grow as it now will partner with the Association and the "Summer Impact Youth."

Plans are still in process but the dates are set for Sunday evening, August 5 through Thursday morning, August 9, 2018, at the historic grounds of the Oregon Christian Convention in Turner.

Everyone is invited to join in for informal times of worship, encouragement and fellowship. Lodging, camping and meal options are available onsite. Costs are minimal. Come for a day or for the entire five days. Registration will open on May 1, 2018. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

**THE PURPOSE** of The Association of the Churches of God in Oregon and SW Washington is to:

- Conduct business as the legally-incorporated body of the Association of the Churches of God in Oregon, Inc.
- Provide assistance to Oregon and Southwest Washington congregations and be a channel through which local congregations shall be mobilized to fulfill our united vision and mission.

**THE VISION** of The Association is for every believer to fulfill the mandate of the Great Commission, the Great Commandments, and the teachings of Jesus Christ.

**THE MISSION** of The Association is to:

- Create and maintain ministries that will strengthen, encourage, supplement, and promote local congregations of The Association;
- Inspire commitment to the teachings, mission, and theological perspectives of the Church of God, Anderson, Indiana;
- Provide support for the development of healthy Church of God congregations.

## WPC Showcased in Book on Higher Ed Diversity

Warner Pacific is featured in the book, "Diversity Matters: Race, Ethnicity, and the future of Christian Higher Education," edited by Dr. Karen A Longman. It explores the unique need for diversity in Christian universities and colleges.

In her chapter, President Andrea Cook spoke of the details of the College's journey, which consisted of reaching out to organizations in the community for support, and reducing language barriers between students and Warner Pacific. Her intention was to provide as much detail as possible to help other universities and colleges who are striving for diversity as well.

During her time at Warner Pacific, President Cook has managed to achieve an astonishing statistic: "...as of Fall 2016, 57 percent of the students at Warner Pacific College are students of color. This is more than a 400 percent increase from when I arrived in 2005!" (p. 71). Since the writing of the book, diversity has continued to grow. As of Fall 2017, 63 percent of the students attending Warner Pacific come from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds.

The book is published by Abilene Christian University Press and is available through most online retailers.

tuition assistance, a new Founder's Day record! To learn more or to donate, visit [warnerpacific.edu/foundersday](http://warnerpacific.edu/foundersday).

## Save the Dates:

- **November 15**  
Jazz Concert at 7:30pm
- **November 19**  
Choral Concert at 3:00pm
- **November 30**  
Advent Chapel at 10:00am and Wind Ensemble Concert at 7:30pm
- **December 2**  
President's Advent Brunch at 10:00am
- **December 9**  
Winter Commencement at 10:00am



## Founder's Day Breaks Fundraising Record

Alumni and friends of the College gathered for a series of celebrations to honor Warner Pacific's 80<sup>th</sup> year! A family-friendly birthday party included games, inflatables, and a dunk tank for our current students and future alumni. The College also welcomed Joel Tallman '84 to speak about the legacy of Warner Pacific at a special Chapel service that included prayers from alumni across the decades. Immediately following Chapel, Joel was present to cut the ribbon on the new Student Rec Center that includes a beautifully redesigned workout space featuring new athletic equipment donated by Tallman's MUV Fitness.

The celebration wrapped up with a birthday luncheon complete with cake and singing, as well as an evening of fun as Athletics presented an event called Knight-Time Madness. Of course, the highlight of the entire week was the generosity of so many who contributed to our giving campaign, raising \$15,000 for student

## Hermansen Pastorate Extended at Lents-Gilbert Church of God

Great news - Pastor Harry Hermansen has agreed to extend his pastorate at Lents-Gilbert Church of God into 2018. We appreciate his and Carol Ann's willingness to continue his ministry with us.

## One-Man Play Nov. 12

Lents-Gilbert announces a November 12 one-man-play called "*The Trouble with Ananias*" during the 10:30 morning worship service. Everyone is welcome to attend. The Church is located at 12230 SE Harold Street in Portland, 97236.

# PROJECT IMAGINE: Announcing Roundtable Members

*During the General Assembly of the Church of God in Wichita, a motion brought by the Ministries Council was strongly affirmed for a review of our ministry relationships across all entities that comprise the Church of God in the United States and Canada.*

*The Ministries Council met in Detroit, September 20–22, and took several steps to launch this conversation, including naming this process of exploration **Project Imagine**. The wheels for Project Imagine are turning with the anticipated outcome to provide a report to the Ministries Council in March 2019, recommending a path forward for the Movement, for presentation to the General Assembly in June 2019.*

Through a substantial balloting process, accomplished with much prayer and with thoughtful, Spirit-led consideration, the September Ministries Council proposed a list of invitees to the *Project Imagine* roundtable. Twenty-nine names surfaced. The Ministries Council has invited these individuals to serve as a member of the *Project Imagine* roundtable. **This historic forum will convene for the first time in Dallas, Texas, December 5–7, 2017.**

Invitations were sent and a time for prayerful consideration of the opportunity was given. At the time of this writing, twenty-five individuals have agreed to serve. There are a few remaining vacant seats as we await final confirmation. The group may grow to as large as twenty-nine. I'm pleased to report that the Ministries Council made every effort to see that the Church of God will be represented in all of its diverse expressions. Attention was given to ensure that ethnicity, positions of responsibility, geography, and generations are well-represented.

Listed below are the names of the roundtable members, sorted alphabetically:

1. Bailey, Arnetta, Christian Women Connection
2. Barnes, Rochelle, layperson
3. Cottrell, Esther, regional pastor
4. Critser, Kay, American Indian Council
5. Dixon, Jeremy, large-church pastor
6. Grubbs, Martin, large-church pastor
7. Guzman, Michael, mid-sized-church pastor



*Bob May*

8. January, Jerald, large-church pastor
9. Livingston, Eric, regional pastor
10. Lutzer, George, Canadian pastor (Western)
11. Martinez-Garcia, Mary Ann, *Concilio Hispano*, Puerto Rico
12. McBroom, Clint, small-church pastor
13. Merritt, Miki, presiding elder, National Association
14. Miller, Vincent, Ministries Council
15. Myricks, Charles, National Association
16. Oldham, Neil, small-church pastor
17. Perry, Aaron, mid-sized-church pastor
18. Pistole, John, president, Anderson University
19. Pratt, Melissa, mid-sized-church pastor
20. Rennick, Steve, regional pastor
21. Rudd, Gerald, Pastors' Fellowship
22. Sanders, Cheryl, mid-sized-church pastor
23. Swoope, Diana, Chair, Ministries Council
24. Talley, Doug, regional pastor
25. West, Tim, regional pastor

We are asking persons across the Church of God to begin praying for the roundtable meetings and to pray specifically for each member of the roundtable. In addition to the roundtable members listed, we will be hearing from hundreds of voices who will be invited to participate in focus groups. Also, **town hall-style meetings will be held at each of the five Regional Conventions in 2018.**

A core objective in *Project Imagine* is a commitment to protect the autonomy of the local church as we identify new opportunities for the Church of God movement. This roundtable is charged with presenting a plan for changes that will empower our movement to flourish and be re-energized.

On a personal note: This is the year that Renee and I celebrate forty years of marriage and forty years together in Christian ministry. In serving Jesus through the Church of God these many years, I'm now left with a burning desire to see that my colleagues, who potentially have twenty or thirty years of ministry ahead, will have the opportunity to lead a healthier, re-energized, and powerful movement that will change the world by keeping Jesus the subject.

This is the resolve that motivates me and also drives me to my knees in prayer. These years of experience have taught me that change is never easy and usually comes at a huge personal cost. Nevertheless, it is worthwhile to see the results of lives and organizations transformed and the kingdom of God expanded. To that end, we all can pray. Please join me.



# Look to the Hills: Camp White Branch

Fire season was tough on the Willamette wilderness this year. Camp White Branch hosted firefighters throughout the season, well into October. Their presence brought in additional income for the camp and was a blessing when the fires moved into the area. We are grateful we escaped any damage.

An annual fundraising dinner event held at Mt. Scott Church of God in Portland, Oregon, resulted in contributions of \$7,525 for the Camp White Branch multipurpose building and an additional \$4,272 for the camp's kitchen repair, according to Chair Mel Neu, bringing the total for the evening to \$11,797. On behalf of the Board, Mel expresses great appreciation for the kindness and generosity toward Camp White Branch. Board Vice-chair is Lisa Switzer, and Secretary Stephen Gartman. Leonard and Stacey Meyer continue as caretakers on the grounds. An October 22 Board meeting, including dinner and tour of the grounds, was held on-site with Pastor Jerry Davisson attending from the District Office.



Above: **Guests at the CWB fundraising dinner held at Mt. Scott Church of God October 13, 2017.**

Left: **Mel Neu poses with Owen and Joyce Hinkle, whose names were added to the Camp White Branch plaque, along with those of Sherman and Betty Cutlip, in recognition of their service to CWB.**

Below: **Progress continues on the interior of the multipurpose building. Sheetrock is now installed in the restrooms. The leaves are beautiful and colorful, instead of the burned look.**

## Save the Dates: 2018 Summer Camps

- July 6 - 8, Intro camp, Jackson, \$165
- July 9 - 13, Senior High (9th-12th grades), Effingham \$250, includes rafting
- July 16 - 20, Junior (5th & 6th grades), Kuykendall, \$180
- July 30 - August 3, Middle School (7th & 8th grades), Beisley, \$205
- August 13-16, Primary (3rd & 4th grades), Graham, \$170

*Camp White Branch  
61500 Old McKenzie Hwy  
McKenzie Bridge, OR*






#### BREAKING:

The location of Church of God Convention 2019:  
Orlando, Florida!  
#JesusIsTheSubject

## International Youth Convention IYC2018 ON TRACK



## District Calendar

- 
- **Nov. 2, 2017**, Thurs., REGION #2, 10:00 a.m.-Noon
  - **Nov. 5**, Sun., Daylight Savings Ends
  - **Nov. 8**, Wed., REGION #7, Noon-1:30 p.m.
  - **Nov. 11**, Sat., VETERANS DAY
  - **Nov. 23**, Thurs., THANKSGIVING DAY (District Offices closed through Friday)
  - **Nov. 30**, Thurs., REGION #5, Noon
  - **Dec. 3**, 1st Sunday of Advent, Candle of Hope
  - **Dec. 10**, 2nd Sunday of Advent, Candle of Response
  - **Dec. 17**, 3rd Sunday of Advent, Candle of Miracles
  - **Dec. 24**, 4th Sunday of Advent, Candle of Peace
  - **Dec. 25**, Mon., CHRISTMAS DAY (District Offices closed)
  - **Jan. 1, 2018**, Mon., New Year's Day (District Offices closed)
  - **Feb. 9, 2018**, Fri., Warner Pacific College Homecoming
  - **Feb. 19-21, 2018**, Ministers' & Spouse Retreat
  - **Feb. 19, 2018**, Mon., President's Day (District Offices closed)
  - **March 11, 2018**, Sunday, Daylight Savings begins
  - **March 20-22, 2018**, Tues.-Thurs., Senior Adult Retreat

For more events, see [orwacog.org/calendar](http://orwacog.org/calendar)