



A NOTE from the Desk of your District Executive

I am reminded everyday how gifted the people in our District are. Our Spring Event was testimony to just some of those gifts. Hymn leading, story- telling, interest group opportunities, worship in its many forms, leadership for planning and ‘making it happen’, fellowship around the table and the opportunity to bid on both Silent and Live Auction items. Together we raised a little over \$2000 to support Disaster Relief.

I am not willing to take the risk of including names of all those who planned this event and who made it happen because I would need to list every person who was with us that weekend. However, having said that I will send out a **BIG THANK YOU** to Doug and Jan Eller for their gifts of leadership and planning; to Elizabeth Ullery-Swensen for her part in “MC’ing” and keeping our scheduled events ‘on track’; to Tara Hornbecker for her gifts of ministry serving as our guest for the weekend in so many ways; to Frosty Wilkinson and Brent Carlson for coordinating our Disaster Auction; to Mont Chris Hubbard and Ben Green for sharing their music ministry gifts and to Joe Detrick, Director Office of Ministry for taking the time to be with us. It takes a village, and we have one of the best !! For this and so much more, I am thankful and blessed.

Update on congregations and Pastors:

Whitestone: Currently in the Search process, Bobbi Dykema serving as their Interim. From her Facebook posts, she is enjoying her ministry in the Okanogan Valley. We continue our prayers for her as she commutes from Seattle each week so she can fulfill her commitment as a Commissioned Minister for the youth at Olympic View Community Church.

Sunnyslope: Mike O'Cain is serving as their Interim pastor while the congregation continues on their Pastoral Search journey. At the recommendation of Rev. Mike Denten, (my counterpart for the United Church of Christ) a congregational job description is being developed to accompany the Pastoral 'call' position description. They served a lovely Easter morning breakfast for our two Wenatchee congregations. They are hosting the May 19 Listening Session with David Steele, our General Secretary.

Wenatchee Brethren Baptist: Hosted the Maundy Thursday Love Feast with our Sunnyslope brothers and sisters joining. Worshipped together with Sunnyslope at the Easter Sunrise service at Rock Reach Dam. This congregation continues to participate in the Food distribution ministry in cooperation with Serve Wenatchee. Thanks to some forward thinking people many years ago, WBBC will have \$11,000 from the interest realized from their Planned Gift investment to distribute this year. These monies go to Mission beyond our walls; capital improvements not included in the budget and community outreach efforts as well as other 'non-budget' ministries.

Ellisforde: Took church council action to serve as a 'Sanctuary Congregation'. Participated in Love Feast with the Whitestone congregation and they continue their ministry through the food bank.

Peace Church (Portland): Welcomed their pastor, Sarah Kinsel back from Maternity Leave. During this time Elizabeth Ullery-Swensen served as their Interim Pastor. They welcomed Owen to their church family and were glad to have Daniel and Matt with them again. David Steele will be hosted by this congregation 2-4pm on Sunday, May 21.

Olympic View Community Church: Jeff Barker is serving as their Interim Pastor while the Search Team reviews Pastoral profiles. His 'call' has been extended until October. This congregation will be hosting the Listening Sessions with David Steele, our General Secretary on Saturday May 20. Celebrated our Risen Lord with Love Feast and Easter morning service that was , in the words Pastor Jeff, "Beautiful". Their Thursday evening Youth group continues under the ministerial leadership of Bobbi Dykema and la leadership of Harriet Koscho and many other lay leaders who give of their time to model Christian values.

Springfield: Their plans for completing the housing project that will serve mentally challenged folks and other low income brothers and sisters continue. Mariska Seese-Green has accepted the 'call' to serve as the over-sight chair for this congregation that chooses to not have a Pastor. Sam Brackett preaches there on a regular basis and provides pastoral care as needed.

Covington Community Church: These faithful brothers and sisters will be meeting in Council on May 7 to make a decision re: their property. Their Leadership Team has spent countless hours in consultation with the City of Covington and structural engineers to come to this place of discernment and decision. Prayers for this Council are requested and appreciated.

Fruitdale Community Church: Anticipates the completion of the sale of their church building in late May or early June. These monies will go to the continued support of the lay ministry of Jim and Debra Bard in the Grants Pass area; will compensate, in part, Jim for his years of service during which the congregation was unable to offer him any kind of financial support and will offer some financial support to the Core Ministries of our District.

Living Stream Church of the Brethren: Under the Pastor Team leadership of Enten Eller and Bruce and Mary Sue Rosenberger this 'on-line' congregation continues to grow in 'cyber' ways. They decided, a few weeks ago to prepare a Congregational Profile for publication across our Denomination. Just this week they had a response from someone who accessed the profile and is interested in being 'called' to serve on the Pastor Team. They also decided to advertise in Messenger. Their advertisement is scheduled for the May/June edition. You are encouraged to participate in this 'new way of being church' each Sunday evening at 5pm Pacific Time. Just go www.livingstreamcob.org . Worshippers from across the United States, Mexico, China, Canada and Germany come together via this Live Stream. **TAKE NOTE:** Carol Mason, one of our Area Minister will be sharing on the about her recent experiences in Nigeria.

Wildwood Gathering: Our newest 'new way of doing church' will be recognized as a Fellowship at the New Church Development breakfast at Annual Conference this year. These Brothers and Sisters, with the Pastoral leadership of Elizabeth (Liz) Ullery Swensen continues to meet every Sunday evening at 6pm on the 'upper room' of Browsers Books, downtown Olympia. They continue to explore what it means to be a 'church' through story telling, art, wilderness walks, song, Scripture engagement and participating in the elements of Brethren worship like the Love Feast and 'all are welcome' Communion.

(this space is for your congregation to share about activities that are happening where you worship) Just send items to pnwdcob@nwi.net and your update will be included in the next edition of our Newsletter.)

REMINDER: Every voice is needed at our Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, MI June 28-July 2. Please register your delegate for this conference at Cob.org/Annual Conference. There is a \$150 scholarship available for each delegate from West of the Mississippi.

What has your District Executive been up to?

January: Participated and completed in a weekend intensive course at Bethany Seminary addressing Administration as Ministry; Served as the Chair of the Council of District Executives at our winter meeting and shared a morning message at Whitestone.

February: Participated in a Search Team meeting with the Sunnyslope folks; shared messages at the Lacey Community Church and with our Living Stream congregation; attended the “Search for Meaning” Ecumenical conference on the Seattle University Campus. One set apart session addressed the issue of ‘doing church in a different way’ and the other session was led by the writer of the book (now a movie)...Hidden Faces. I also took advantage of being on the west side of the hills and connected face to face with Mark Ray and Elizabeth Ullery-Swensen.

March Met with our District Board and participated in the Appreciative Inquiry Performance Evaluation of my service and ministry of our District. Participated in our Spring Event, shared the morning message at Whitestone and Peace Church then traveled to Dayton, Ohio and drove Greenville, Ohio for a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council of District Executives. Was Spiritually enriched at the Prayer Retreat at my home congregation in Wenatchee. Engaged in Board conversations with Living Stream.

April Was blessed at the Love Feast service with the Sunnyslope and my home congregation. Got very cold at the Sunrise Service at Rocky Reach Dam but was warmed by the delicious breakfast served by our Sunnyslope brothers and sisters. Engaged in conference calls with the Leadership Team of the Church of the Brethren and the Executive Committee of the Council of DE’s continuing to hone our response to the question related to how District and congregations respond when not ‘of one mind’ with the decisions of Annual Conference.

Coming Up:

May: Lunch gathering of the “Rain shadow” Pastors serving congregations on the East side of Washington; participating in the Council meeting at Covington on May 7, traveling to Portland for worship and Listening Session on May 20 then meeting face to face with the Oversight Committee at Springfield and Jim Bard, Lay minister at the Fruitdale Community Church (Grant’s Pass, OR)

June-July Sharing the morning message at Ellisford on June 18. Flying to Grand Rapids, Michigan for the summer meeting of the Council of District Executives and then serving as a delegate for my home congregation at Annual Conference. Once again I will be traveling to Camp Myrtlewood for Family Camp.

I spend my office hours, usually Mon-Wed 10-2pm

- ♥ Responding to e-mail and snail mail correspondence;
- ♥ Connecting with District leaders by phone, SKYPE.
- ♥ Challenging myself to become more familiar ZOOM technology to connect with my DE Colleagues on issues of governance, polity, property issues and other challenges that we face every day;
- ♥ Regular conversation with Ivan Bowman, our District Treasurer on all matters of budget and finance.
- ♥ Monitoring congregations’ responses to the flow of information and compliance with the requirements related to the Church of the Brethren Yearbook and other statistical reports.
- ♥ Supporting Congregations in their Pastoral search process by requesting access to the Church of the Brethren Profile site; and participating in face to face meetings.
- ♥ Self-care including meeting with my Grace and Growth group twice each month, daily meditation using Adult Coloring as my source of quiet time and regular worship and participation in adult Sunday School Bible study and scheduling **“OFF THE GRID”** time at least twice each month.



ALL ARE WELCOME

Our District will be hosting David Steele, General Secretary for the Church of the Brethren the weekend of May 19-21 for a series of Listening Sessions. You are invited and encouraged to participate in at least one of these sessions for this wonderful and unique opportunity to be in conversation with Brother David.

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| Friday May 19 | 7-9pm | The Sunnyslope Church 3330 School Street, Wenatchee, WA |
| Saturday May 20 | 7-9pm | Olympic View Community Church 425 NE 95 th Street, Seattle, WA |
| Sunday May 21, | 2-4pm | Peace Church 12727 SE Market Street Portland, OR |

Roger Edmark, Olympic View Community Church and Chair of our Faithful Response Team wrote a thoughtful and thought provoking article for his congregation's newsletter. He then shared it with our District Board when we met in March. This is what he wrote:

WE ARE THERE

*When the District Area Ministers visit and support a pastor at any of our District Churches, **we are there**.....*

*When the people of the District go to rebuild a home in Eastern Washington, or New Jersey or wherever as part of our Disaster Relief ministry, **we are there**...*

*When we offer and then gather as a District to fellowship, be inspired and grow spiritually at the Spring Event, **we are there**.....*

*When we support the beginnings of new ministries in and through the District like Living Stream and Wildwood Gathering, **we are there**...*

*When we support the ministries of our camps, Myrtlewood and Koinonia, **we are there**...*

*When Colleen, our Executive Minister travels to represent us at the national level of our denomination, **we are there**.*

*When we promote, Winter Snow Camp/Retreat, Men's Retreat, Women's Retreat, Summer camping experience for our kids, youth and families, **we are there**.....*

*When we sponsor our youth to participate in National Youth Conference and Regional Youth Conference in the alternate years, **we are there**.....*

*When we enable set apart ministers in our district to be recognized through Ordination, Commissioning or Licensing, **we are there**.....*

*When we gather for District Conference to review and celebrate our past and set a course for our future, we do it together for all of us and **we are there**.*

Pacific Northwest District Church of the Brethren

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