

On the Way

October 1, 2011

CENTRAL PACIFIC CONFERENCE * UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Extravagant Grace * Generous Hearts * Renewed World*

More than one path on the Way . . .

On our trip home from Challis, Idaho and the Fall Gathering of the Idaho Association, Cindy and I spent a couple of hours at the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Baker City, OR. The museum sits atop of a hill north of town, with an expansive view of the prairie to the west. We were already familiar with some of the stories of this iconic trail from our years in Council Bluffs, Iowa and Omaha, Nebraska. Those communities are neighbors, waving across the Missouri River. The location was a stop-over for Lewis and Clark, and later for those pioneers following both the Oregon Trail and the Mormon Trail to new lands in the west. For much of the travel through the present state of Nebraska, these trails paralleled the Platte River – a stream of water “a mile wide and an inch deep.”

As we watched the introductory video, and read our way through the Center, I was impressed, again, with the sacrifices made by our ancestors as they made their way west with the hope of a better life. The stereotypical image of the journey is a line of wagons playing “follow the leader.” Sometimes this was literally true – there are wagon ruts still viewable today, ground deep in rocky ridges. There were often fixed places to cross dangerous rivers or challenging mountain ranges. But I was surprised to hear that sometimes the trail widened to miles, to avoid the dust or to find better grazing for livestock. Instead of a ribbon of Interstate carrying vehicles west, the Oregon Trail offered multiple options for those following the setting sun.

The idea of “multiple paths” came through again the next day, when we visited the Museum at the Tamastlikt Cultural Institute outside of Pendleton, OR. The Institute is owned and operated by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. While most of the museum details the history of the native inhabitants of the eastern Oregon prairie land, a current exhibition turns attention to cowgirls, both present and past. I was intrigued watching a video about rodeo cowgirls in the early 1900’s, often competing at the Pendleton Round-up directly with men in bronco riding and steer wrestling. I hadn’t heard about this aspect of the wild west. What especially caught my attention was a statement that the cowgirls of the west were making the own strong statement for the equality of the sexes, while sisters were marching for voting rights in the east. The message was clear. While the suffragettes were calling for equality, the cowgirls were demonstrating equality!

I thought about our social justice work in the church. I realized that I (and we!) am sometimes self-righteous about the way that I go about that work. In our effort to be inclusive and welcoming, we can quickly slide into judgment and condemnation. While there certainly is conservation bigotry that oppresses the “other,” those of us who claim to be enlightened can also fall into that evil. Whenever we are caught-up in our own viewpoint, the words of Micah provide a helpful course correction:

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8 (NRSV)

Let’s be guided by love and humility as we follow Jesus “*On the Way.*”

***Welcome to our New Outdoor Ministries Director(s!) for Camp Adams and the CPC
Natalie and Bob Becker will start January 1, 2012***

The best way to introduce Natalie and Bob to you is to share the first paragraph of their letter of inquiry:

My husband, Bob, and I write with great interest in the Outdoor Ministries Director position at Camp Adams. Our application may be unique in that it we are interested in exploring the possibility of sharing the position of camp director at a United Church of Christ (UCC) facility. Bob and I are lifelong UCC members- baptized, confirmed and married. Together we have over thirteen years of supervisory and administrative experience at a UCC camp and conference center. Bob served as the maintenance supervisor at Pilgrim Center, in Green Lake, Wisconsin, for ten years. I served as a program director and counselor there for three. Bob went on to pursue a career in the building trades. I earned a Ph.D. in education from the University of Wisconsin, Madison and have been on faculty at the Graduate School of Education at the University of California, Riverside for the past seven years, developing a background in informal learning organizations, experiential learning and youth and young adult leadership.



From the start of our search, Natalie and Bob's resumes were at the top of the pile. The new OMD will be responsible for the maintenance and development of Camp Adams, and will provide staff support for the work of the Education Ministries Task Force. The EMTF is tasked with conference-wide programming in Christian Education, youth, and outdoor ministries. The combination of education, skills, and experience that Natalie and Bob bring to the position is a perfect match for our needs.

We received 55 applications for the position, including 3 couples that were interested in sharing the job. We were blessed with a very strong pool of candidates. After an initial screening, we conducted phone interviews with 13 candidates, followed with 3 on-site interviews at Camp Adams. I was assisted in the discernment process by a strong advisory team: Sheila Daniels, David Akers, Farley Maxwell, Dick Kroll, and interim director Ira Williams.

Natalie and Bob will share one full-time position, serving as Outdoor Ministries Co-Directors for the CPC. Together, they bring experience in marketing and evaluation; the hiring, supervision, and evaluation of personnel; creating and managing budgets (including grant writing), and the maintenance and development of camp buildings. At the UCal-Riverside, Bob and Natalie have been involved in an experiential learning program, helping students develop a week-long summer camp experience for homeless and low income youth hosted by their local UCC church.

Natalie closed her letter with this summary: *Moreover, we miss the joys and even the stresses (yes, we are quite familiar with both) of living and working at a camp and conference center. Together we share a deep commitment to the type of educational and community-building opportunities that such facilities and programs afford; at this rather unsettled time in our nation's history we believe our society needs more places and spaces to learn and grow together. We would like to be a part of such a place.*

Bob and Natalie and their seven year-old daughter, Ruby, are busy making preparations for their move. They'll settle into the Manager's Home at Camp Adams in late December.

CPC Women's Camp at Camp Adams ~ Native American Spirituality and Art

Women's Camp is scheduled for October 7-9 at Camp Adams with a theme of "Native American Spirituality and Art". Rev. Denise Andersen and her daughter Caitlin will be the resource leaders. Caitey works at Celilo Indian Education Program on the Columbia River. Brochures will be sent to all churches this summer and women should save these dates and plan to attend this event.

Contact Nancy Klingeman for more information: nancyklingeman@comcast.net. You can also find registration materials on the CPC website: <http://www.cpucc.org>.

Let's Make a Joyful Noise! ~ CPC Westside Fall Gathering ~ Oct. 14th & 15th

**Central Pacific Conference UCC Westside Fall Gathering
October 14 & 15, 2011
First Congregational UCC, Portland**

Registration Materials:

<http://www.cpucc.org/documents/RegistrationPacket.pdf>



The theme for CPC Fall Gathering is music, music, music! How often have you heard complaints about music at church? Music is central to our worship and it's also a lightning rod for dissent. We want to take a look at music and the many ways it feeds us and deepens our connection to Spirit. This event is NOT just for musicians, so plan to attend and enjoy great music, worship and workshops!

Presenters include musicians and groups from many different genres and **special guest Scott Ressman, Minister for Worship, Music and Liturgical Arts on the Congregational Vitality and Discipleship Ministry Team** (Local Church Ministries UCC) in Cleveland. Scott will help us discover great new music in the UCC's Sing! Prayer and Praise, our new praise and worship music book. AND everyone who attends will receive a copy of Sing! Prayer and Praise. We want YOU to join us as we Make a Joyful Noise!

PS: There will no business sessions at Fall Gathering, it's all about music!

Clergy Transitions

Susan Leo has retired as pastor of Bridgeport UCC in northeast Portland, OR. Her last Sunday in worship was July 24th. Susan was the founding pastor of the congregation 13 years ago. Susan is working on her D.Min. degree at George Fox University. We celebrate Susan's faithful service with Bridgeport, and pray for God's guidance as she moves into the next phase of life and ministry.

Alan Claassen was called to serve as the interim minister of Bridgeport UCC in a congregational meeting on September 18th. Alan has been serving in a transitional role with the congregation. Now he will work with the congregation as they begin their search for a new settled pastor.

John Dominic Crossan speaking in Eugene, OR in October
Annual Interfaith Community Breakfast and Seminar to feature famed scholar

Interfaith Community Breakfast, Oct 10 @ 7 a.m. * Eugene Hilton

John Dominic Crossan will speak on "Is Compassion Enough" at the Seventh Annual Interfaith Community Breakfast on Oct 10, 2011.

Crossan writes that "justice without love or love without justice is a moral corpse." Crossan is concerned that, too often, compassion concerns itself simply with mitigating *retributive* justice. In the great religions, however, the prophets hail the importance of *distributive* justice. In this presentation, Crossan will discuss why separating compassion from distributive justice results in neither.

Regular admission: \$15; Students \$7.50; Coffee only: \$5

Tickets may be purchased at First Christian Church, 1166 Oak St, Eugene, or online at www.laneinstitute.org.

Tickets for the breakfast must be purchased by Oct. 7.

LIFE Seminar: God and Empire in a World of Violence, Oct 9 – 10, First Cong. UCC, Eugene

In a world where religion and violence often go hand in hand, or religion is used to support the conquests of empire, what can we say about God's relationship to violence? Examining the Biblical record from Genesis to Revelation, Crossan contrasts the normalcy of civilization, or peace through victory, with the message of the prophets, Jesus and Paul of the Kingdom of God, or peace through justice. The fundamental questions Crossan asks of not only the Jews and Christians who gave us the Bible, but of all people of faith today are these: What is the character of your God? Is your God ultimately violent or nonviolent? And finally, how does, or should, that perception shape our world?

In this seminar, Dr. Crossan will give three lectures at First Cong. Church, 1050 E. 23rd, Eugene.

Oct. 9, 2011, 4:00 p.m. *The Bible & Violence*

Oct 9, 2011, 7:00 p.m. *Jesus & Violence*

Oct.10, 2011, 4:00 p.m. *Apocalypse & Violence*

Cost: Individual lectures, \$15/each (students \$7.50)

Two lectures, \$25 (Students \$15)

The full seminar, \$40 (Students \$20)

Tickets may be purchased at First Christian Church, 1166 Oak St, Eugene, online at

www.laneinstitute.org or at the door. Those who purchase tickets to the full seminar prior to Sept 20 may order a number of Dr. Crossan's books at 40% off and will also receive a \$2.50 discount to the Interfaith Community Breakfast. Books may be ordered at www.laneinstitute.org.

A fourth lecture will be held at the University of Oregon, Lillis 282 (free and open to the public):

Oct 10, 2011, 7:00 p.m. *The Revolutionary Message of the Lord's Prayer*

About the Speaker: John Dominic Crossan, is Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies at DePaul University and the President-elect for the Society of Biblical Literature. He is often considered the foremost historical Jesus scholar today and has written 25 books on Jesus, Paul and early Christianity. He is a frequent guest on national news programs and cable programs such as Discovery and the National Geographic Channel.

Lake Oswego UCC Arts and Lecture Series Opens Second Season

The LOUCC Arts and Lectures series will host five events this year, with two concerts are interspersed between three other events emphasizing the environment, dance creation, and theology. The goal of the series is to explore the voice of the still-speaking God through music, the arts, and letters.

The kickoff lecture will be presented by Rabbi David Zaslow, head of the Havurah Shir Hadash congregation in Ashland, Oregon. Rabbi Zaslow will speak Sunday, October 23 at 3 PM on the subject of his most recent book, *Roots and Branches*, based on his research over the last two decades into the Jewish origins of Jesus and Christianity. Rabbi Zaslow's thesis is that re-Judaizing Jesus will not only strengthen both Christianity and Judaism, but will also reduce the millenniums-old anti-Semitism based on the de-Judaizing of Jesus in the second century. The event is in conjunction with LOUCC's partner, the Beit Haverim South Metro Jewish Congregation.



The second event in this series will be a holiday concert unlike any seen at the Arts and Lectures Series. On December 4 *The Fa La La La Follies* will arrive: “a musical mishmash of holiday mirth,” composed for the Arts and Lectures Series. Start your holiday season with spirited Christmas and Hanukkah music performed by Sue and Martin Brother, friends and family. The Brothers are long-time local actors, musicians and writers who have performed around the country in productions ranging from New York to Los Angeles.

On Sunday, March 11, 2012, local filmmaker Matt Briggs will speak on solutions to stop global warming and then screen his award-winning feature length documentary film *Deep Green*. Shot in nine countries during the last three years, the film is based on six years of intensive environmental research in which Briggs spoke to leading authorities from around the world.

Dancer and educator Betsy Claassen will demonstrate and discuss the origins of transcendence in modern dance on Sunday, April 29, 2012. She will be dancing solo and with dancers from the LOUCC congregation, showcasing her liturgical dances for congregations.

The Arts and Lectures Series will end on May 20, 2012 with *Girls Night Out*, a concert by soprano Kerry Walters accompanied by pianist Denise Parr-Scanlin. The two will perform the music of Clara Schumann and Cécile Chaminade, two fine composers whose music has been overlooked because of their gender. The performers will provide an afternoon of lieder and French melodies.

All events in the Arts and Lectures Series will occur at 3 PM on Sunday afternoon on the dates indicated at the Lake Oswego United Church of Christ, 1111 Country Club Rd., Lake Oswego. Doors open at 2 PM. A free-will offering will be accepted at the door. For more information contact the LOUCC at office@loucc.org, or 503.635.4348, or visit the website at loucc.org.



You are Invited to a Conversation with Enzi Tanner – UCC Coalition Board Member

Sun November 13th from 3-5 PM at Ainsworth UCC * 2941 NE Ainsworth St, Portland, OR.

Come Talk with a National UCC Coalition Board Member.

Learn How The Coalition Supports LGBTQ Persons and their Allies.

What Would You Like The Coalition to Know about the CPC?

What Direction Would You Like The Coalition to Take?

Come Share Food and Conversation

Read about Enzi at <http://www.uccoalition.org/about/board/#c4044>

Submitted by Joyce Liljeholm (CPC ONA Consultant)

Thanksgiving Cooking School and More at Collins Retreat Center

Whether you like to cook, like to eat, or love to do both, there's a perfect program coming up for you at the Alton L. Collins Retreat Center! The Thanksgiving Cooking School is designed for home cooks interested in learning some fresh techniques and recipes for this year's holiday feasting. The retreat will also explore themes of blessing and abundance, with tips for finding local foods for your table (including a tour of the Center's organic garden), and some ideas for creating rituals of thanksgiving in your own home. Dates are Oct. 24-26, 2011. [Click here](#) for more details and registration information.

And if you fall into the "like to eat" category, but cooking's not your thing, consider the "Food & Fix-It" retreat, which will run at the same time (Oct. 24-26). You pay only for lodging, and work on a variety of minor maintenance projects in order to "earn" your meals, which will be the very delicious output from the Thanksgiving Cooking School! No experience needed--there are projects for every skill level. [Click here](#) to find out more about this fun opportunity.

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Rev. Laura Jaquith Bartlett * Program Director, Alton L. Collins Retreat Center

32867 SE Highway 211 * Eagle Creek, OR 97022

phone: [503-637-6411](tel:503-637-6411) * cell: [541-409-8447](tel:541-409-8447)

email: ALCollinsProgramDirector@gmail.com

website: www.collinsretreatcenter.org

Facebook: facebook.com/CollinsRetreatCenter

Severe Weather Shelter Training ~ Eric Cannon

Does your church participate in the [Severe Weather Shelter](#) network? Welcoming people into your church when temperatures fall below freezing or helping out at a church that does is special work to be sure. People who are outside respond to our warmth and caring. Consider attending the training below on Oct. 20th. You will be glad you did.

Eric Canon (Chair) * Interfaith Committee on Homelessness
www.ahomeoftheirown.com * (503) 357-3282

Thursday, October 20, 2011
6:15 p.m. Registration - 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Training
Beaverton First Baptist Church
5755 SW Erickson Avenue, Beaverton

After many attempts to find a new date and time for the annual Severe Weather Shelter Response Plan training, we have confirmed an "evening" session that will include:

- * Brief updates by guest speakers on new and emerging information for emergency preparedness and shelter operations; and
- * Receive an update on the changes that will be implemented to the SOS-Shelter; and
- * A session open to all in attendance to ask questions of our guest speakers, exchanging information amongst shelter volunteers that provide for addressing challenges and/or solutions to challenges that your shelter incorporated.
- * Email for an agenda with details of the evening training session.

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION with all persons who support your shelter operations. We need all six shelter sites to have a representative present to bring the information back to your shelter operations. In addition, I will work with the guest speakers to either have special information handouts at the training and/or post on the county website for your use. If your members would please RSVP their attendance via email to Annette.Evans@co.washington.or.us.

Lastly, we want to thank *Beaverton First Baptist* for hosting the training event (a central location for the six shelters operating in Washington County). Please call me if you have questions, and "Thank You" for your service and caring support to those who find themselves in the bitter cold with no home of their own to provide warmth and safety.

Annette M. Evans

Homeless Program Coordinator
Chair, Housing and Supportive Services Network (HSSN)
Washington County Department of Housing Services
111 NE Lincoln Street, Suite 200-L, MS-63
Hillsboro, OR 97124-3082
(Phone: [503-846-4760](tel:503-846-4760))
(Fax: [503-846-4795](tel:503-846-4795))
<http://www.co.washington.or.us/Housing/10-year-plan-to-end-homelessness.cfm>

First Congregational UCC in Boise, Church Administrator position

We are starting the search process for a new Church Administrator. Do you know of someone who would be great handling the duties listed below?

- create the worship bulletin, weekly e-mail announcements/update, and monthly newsletter
- handle requests from members of the congregation and people from the community
- schedule groups (such as AA and community organizations) using the building
- coordinate and support volunteers
- update the church website
- use tremendous tact, time-management, multi-tasking capabilities, and follow-up skills to keep the church running smoothly

If you know of someone, please ask them to apply through Idaho Job Service at

<http://labor.idaho.gov/dnn/Default.aspx?tabid=661>

Business and Personnel Committee *First Congregational United Church of Christ
2201 Woodlawn Ave * Boise, ID 83702 * [208-334-5731](tel:208-334-5731)



Annual
Fall
Bazaar

Saturday • October 8th • 9am to 3pm

Over 25 Vendors - Raffle Drawings - Homemade Lunch and Pies

BEAVERCREEK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST - "The Ten O'Clock Church"
23345 S. BEAVERCREEK ROAD - www.beavercreekucc.org

Mission: 1

Have You Heard about the UCC's Mission:1?

11.1.11 – 11.11.11 (That's Nov. 1, 2011 – Nov. 11, 2011!)

Nov. 1-11, 2011... ONE UNITED CHURCH on a shared mission for 11 powerful days to feed the hungry and confront food-related injustice. This is MISSION: 1

- In 11 days, the United Church of Christ will collect more than 1 MILLION ITEMS OF HEALTHY FOOD and other household items for local food banks and outreach services.
- In 11 days, the United Church of Christ will make an extra-special push to gather online contributions of more than \$111,111 DOLLARS for Neighbors in Need, offerings that will be shared for hunger-action purposes with agencies of justice and compassion throughout the United States; and \$111,111 DOLLARS for East Africa famine relief ministries.
- In 11 days, the United Church of Christ will offer more than 11,111 LETTERS to Congress asking our government to reform U.S. foreign assistance in a way that more effectively benefits hungry and poor people worldwide, helping to provide a major final push to Bread for the World's 2011 "Offering of Letters" campaign.

DURING THE FIRST 11 DAYS of NOVEMBER, an online tote board at ucc.org will tally our collective count of foodstuffs, donations and letters - information we'll update and celebrate in real time together.

And throughout the 11 days, the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries will organize church-member delegations to meet with Members of Congress to bring attention to our church's concern about hunger at home and abroad.

Most importantly, our UCC motto and Jesus' prayer "that they may all be 1" will become a focused, concerted mission emphasis across the whole United Church of Christ to educate ourselves and one another about food-related policy issues through sermons, seminars and conversations; to advocate on behalf of hungry people at home and around the world; to raise money for hunger-action purposes; and to share bread - and tuna, and peanut butter, and vegetables, and cereal - with our neighbors in need.

Begin now to organize your church's victory strategy. And plan now to join in a national celebration of our campaign's success on Sunday, Nov. 13 - in your local UCC church.

The world needs the distinct values, vision and voice of the United Church of Christ - Continuing Testament. Extravagant Welcome. Changing Lives. This is MISSION: 1

31 Days until Mission: 1

www.ucc.org/mission1



CPC Summer Camp Schedule for Camp Adams

For 2012

July 1, 2012 to July 7, 2012 Family camp: There are 3 options for family camp. 7-1-12 to 7-4-12 or 7-4-12 to 7-7-12 or 7-1-12 to 7-7-12 the charge would be based on either the part week or full week.

Work camp 7-1-12 to 7-4-12.

Young adult camp 7-4-12 to 7-7-12

July 8 to July 14, 2012 Gen/Seekers (completed 2nd and 3rd grades) camp, (there may be half week offered if parents show an interest)

July 15 to July 21, 2012 Discoverers (completed 4th and 5th grades) camp

July 22 to July 28, 2012 Sojourners (completed 6th, 7th and 8th grades) camp

July 29 to August 4, 2012 Exodus (completed 9th to 12th grades) camp

The following dates are subject to change.

For 2013

June 30, 2013 to July 6, 2013 Family camp, Work camp, Young adult camp

July 7 to July 13, 2013 Gen/Seekers camp

July 14 to July 20, 2013 Discoverers

July 21 to July 27, 2013 Sojourners

July 28 to August 3, 2013 Exodus

For 2014

June 29, 2014 to July 5, 2014 Family camp, Work camp, Young adult camp

July 6 to July 12, 2014 Gen/Seekers camp

July 13 to July 19, 2014 Discoverers

July 20 to July 26, 2014 Sojourners

July 27 to August 2, 2014 Exodus

Keeping You e-Posted – weekly news from the United Church of Christ

Do you miss receiving UCC News in your mailbox? Do you wish there was an easy way to keep track of the current news in our denomination? *Keeping You e-Posted* is a weekly, coordinated e-zine of news, featured items, resources, worship materials, and justice-action items e-mailed each Tuesday.

Here's a link to subscribe: <http://www.ucc.org/news/keeping-you-eposted>

Is Your Church on Facebook? Free Webinars from the Our UCC Insurance Board

The Insurance Board is holding these upcoming webinars you do not want to miss!

To Register: <https://insuranceboard.ilinc.com/perl/ilinc/lms/event.pl>

** NOTE Since these workshops are sponsored by the Insurance Board, I expect that they will take a more conservative view of the opportunities of current technology. That viewpoint is an important part of the conversation, but shouldn't be the only viewpoint. When you are talking about policies and possibilities for social media and your ministry, I'd also encourage you to check out resources from The Center for Progressive Renewal - <http://www.progressiverenewal.org/>

Let me know what your experiences are with Social Media. Thanks! walter john

Subject	Dates/Times	Material
Facebook for Your Church -- The Right Way	Oct 5 11AM E & 3PM E	Facebook for your church is not a casual decision. It takes planning and forethought about consequences — there's a right way and wrong way. What to post and not to post and what to respond to. A review of the "nuts and bolts" of setting up a "business" Facebook page and the controls required to manage the risks of using social media.
Building Trust, Preventing Disaster 2.0 – Financial Controls and Other Insights	Oct 12 11AM E & 3PM E	Review related elements of church by-laws and basic principles of financial control: separation of duties and audit. Added insights from claim experience and work with Churches.
Abuse Prevention 2.0 – Making SafeConduct™ Your Goal	Nov 2 11AM E & 3PM E	Your policy should nurture SafeConduct™, rather than complying and reacting. Learn how to create leadership policy to prevent exploitation of children and vulnerable adults. Discussion covers essential components: screening, interaction guidelines, monitoring, security, reporting & training.
Church Tenants – Sharing Your Church and Managing Risk	Nov 16 11AM E & 3PM E	Sharing your space and developing sources of income requires understanding methods of risk transfer. The session will review how to lend and lease your property while minimizing risk to your church. Here's how to manage common tenants: Daycare; Weight Watches; non-profits; wedding parties.
Social Media – Plan, Prepare, Protect	Nov 30 11AM E & 3PM E	Social media is "child's play" for children, but not for churches. A review of the many consideration around church use of social media, including management controls and oversight, copyright, libel, privacy and security.

CPC Board, Ministry Teams, and Special Events

Wider Church Ministry Team: Friday, October 14, 2011 * 9:00am-12:00pm
First Congregational UCC, 1126 SW Park Avenue, Portland, OR

Board of Directors: Friday, October 14, 2011 * 12:00pm-4:00pm
First Congregational UCC, 1126 SW Park Avenue, Portland, OR

Covenants Ministry Team Friday and Saturday, October 28th & 29th,
Interchurch Center, Portland, OR.

Chuck Currie Named Associate Director Of The Westar Institute

**For Immediate Release
September 28, 2012**

**For Additional Information Contact:
Dr. Stephen Patterson
503-370-6648 or spatters@willamette.edu
Rev. Chuck Currie
971-322-7920 or rev@chuckcurrie.com**

The Westar Institute announced today the appointment of The Rev. Chuck Currie, a United Church of Christ minister nationally recognized for his work on social justice issues and with social media, as Associate Director. "This is a wonderful opportunity for me to support the work of one of our nation's most important academic bodies focusing on the critical study of religion," said Currie. "For many, the work undertaken by the Westar Institute is a beacon of hope to anyone wishing to embrace a spiritual life that has more intellectual integrity." The Westar Institute is best known as the home of the [Jesus Seminar](#).

The Westar Institute is a member-supported, non-profit research and educational institute founded in 1986 and dedicated to the advancement of religious literacy. Westar's twofold mission is to foster collaborative research in religious studies and to communicate the results of the scholarship of religion to a broad, non-specialist public.

Dr. Stephen J. Patterson, Geo. H. Atkinson Professor of Religious and Ethical Studies at Willamette University, is the director of The Westar Institute. "The Westar Institute recently relocated to the Willamette University campus in Salem, Oregon and we are poised to enlist scholars from across the country and around the world to engage in public scholarship for the common good," said Dr. Patterson. "Rev. Currie will help us to become better equipped to bring into the public forum the considered views of biblical scholars whenever the Bible is invoked on behalf of this or that cause."

The Westar Institute will launch a new project - The Bible Seminar - this November. The Fall Meeting of The Westar Institute [will take place November 17-19 in Berkley, CA.](#)

Currie earned a Master of Divinity degree at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis and is currently working toward a Doctor of Ministry degree at Chicago Theological Seminary in the area of public theology. He has previously served as the Acting Minister of Salem, Oregon's First Congregational United Church of Christ, the interim minister of Portland, Oregon's Parkrose Community United Church of Christ, and as the director of community outreach at Portland's First United Methodist Church. Before attending seminary, Currie worked with a number of Oregon and national organizations that address issues of homelessness, poverty and health care. "His experience as a non-profit manager with a background in the critical study of religion is just what we need," added Dr. Patterson.

Currie started one of the first progressive Christian blogs in 2003 and [is a regular contributor to The Huffington Post.](#) He has appeared on ABC's World News Tonight, FOX News, NPR and other national media outlets. Currie won the Vollum Humanitarian Award from Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon in 2003 and a Blessed Are The Peacemakers Award from the World Council of Churches in 2004. In 2009, he was an invited guest of President and Mrs. Obama to a holiday reception at the White House. Rev. Currie is married to Liz Smith Currie, a policy advisor at Multnomah County. They live in NE Portland with their twin 7-year old daughters, Katherine and Frances.

A Personal Note

Important events on my September calendar included a Personnel Committee meeting on Sept. 10th, and a CPC Board of Director's face-to-face meeting on Saturday, Oct. 17th. On Sunday, September I had the pleasure of participating in the Ordination of Sally Godard to a specialized community peace and justice ministry in McMinnville, OR.

At the end of the month, my wife, Cindy, and I drove to Idaho for the Fall Gathering of the Idaho Association. This year, the meeting was held at a beautiful facility, The Living Waters Ranch, in the high mountain desert just outside of Challis, Idaho. On our way out to the meeting, we stopped in McCall, Idaho, visiting Pilgrim Cove Camp and spending the night with Charlottie and Ray Havlicak. Charlottie has faithfully served as pastor of Community Congregational UCC in McCall for the past 17 years.

We spent Friday and Saturday with delegates to the Association meeting, listening to reports about Pilgrim Cove and High Horizons (low income housing in Boise, ID). Sunday morning, I preached for the congregation of Community UCC in Challis, before we drove back to McCall. We had a chance to canoe on Payette Lake, before joining Pilgrim Cove director Bill Beckham, and his wife Dee, for dinner. That night, Cindy and I stayed in the Manager's Cabin at Pilgrim Cove. Our stops on the rest of the way home are detailed in the opening article of this issue.

During this transition time between the departure of Ira Williams at Camp Adams, and the arrival of Natalie and Bob Becker in January, I'll be serving as the supervisor at the camp. I've made five visits to the camp in September, and will continue to stop out on a weekly basis.

Yesterday, I was part of the worship service as Deb Allen was installed as pastor and teacher of the United Church of Christ, Congregational of The Dalles. It was a delightful celebration.

This Wednesday, I fly to St. Louis to take part in financial development training offered to Conference Ministers through our national UCC and provided by the Center on Philanthropy of Indiana University. The following week, I'll join you for the CPC Westside Fall Gathering at 1st Portland. Later in the month, I'll be headed to Camp N-Sid-Sen in northern Idaho for our annual gathering of western region UCC Conference Ministers. On Oct. 28th & 29th, I'll be meeting with our Covenants Ministry Team. On Sunday, October 30th, I'll be preaching at First Congregational UCC, Hillsboro.

In the midst of all of it, I'll be holding the clergy and churches of the Central Pacific Conference in my thoughts and prayers as you carry on the ministry of Jesus.

Yours in Christ, walter john

**The Rev. Dr. Walter John Boris – Conference Minister
Central Pacific Conference * United Church of Christ
Interchurch Center
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