

# PRESIDENT'S

## Report

### HIS CHRISTMAS MIRACLE

Each year at Christmas, we take a pause and reflect on how the year has progressed — how has God blessed? What will His miracle be this year?

Some years are more difficult to see the blessings than others. For other years, the blessings are so abundant you can only respond by dropping to your knees in thanks.

I have found myself on my knees in thanks more this year than I can remember doing before!

About a month back, I was sent an article from *The Christian Post* detailing that the Adventist Church is estimating a \$26 million decline in tithe and mission offerings around the world due to COVID.

This is a significant decrease, with some conferences reporting a 25% decrease.

Yet, I look at how our UCC members have responded during this period. Though times are tough, our members have *increased* their tithes and offerings!

While that is a huge blessing to the work in this Conference, there has been an even more significant blessing.

During this year of COVID mandates, social distancing, and Zoom church, more than 220 individuals have made a decision for Christ.

At East Wenatchee Spanish, a father, mother, and three teen children were all baptized at once. Sandpoint also had several baptisms and Spokane Valley Spanish reported 16 baptisms this summer.

Proud grandfather Pastor Lloyd Perrin was able to be present for the baptism of five of his grandchildren all on the same day.

And so, as we take a pause and reflect on this year, we find ourselves once again on our knees in thanks.

One more family has made their way to accepting Jesus as their personal Savior. One more person chose to publicly profess their faith. One more for the Kingdom.

That is part of His 2020 Christmas miracle.



M I N N E R   L A B R A D O R   J R .



22

UCC schools in-person  
out of 25

%

8.78

increase in tithe year-to-  
date compared to 2019



220

baptisms/professions  
of faith through Nov.



## ACTIONS TAKEN AT 12.3.20 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### President's update

- Minner Labrador, UCC president, presented a worship thought and gave an overall update on the conference.

### Administration update

- Rodney Mills, UCC vice president for administration reported on conference membership. Churches have been adapting to continue evangelism in 2020.
- Angel Rodriguez, pastor at Sandpoint, shared how evangelism has continued with in-person programs for both adults and children.
- Marco Larumbe, pastor at Wenatchee Spanish, shared that their cycle of evangelism has gone virtual, utilizing livestreaming and video conferencing. Hispanic Ministries is streaming programming daily on social media.

### Financial update

- Allee Currier, UCC vice president for finance, presented an update on conference finances.
- It was voted to receive the August, September, and October Finance Reports, subject to audit.
- It was voted to approve the preliminary budget assumptions for 2021 with the understanding that the final budget will be presented at the February 2021 Executive Committee meeting.
- It was voted to approve the 2021 Upper Columbia Conference offering schedule.
- It was voted to approve the 2021 parsonage exclusion.
- It was voted to receive the report from the Admin-

istrative & Finance Committee regarding the implications of the Washington Minimum Salary Threshold. The committee will work with UCC administration on a response.

### Education update

- Brian Harris, UCC vice president for education, reported that 22 out of 25 UCC schools are able to have in-person classes, one of which is mixed in-person/virtual learning. There have been confirmed student and teacher cases of COVID, however protocols are working to keep outbreaks out of schools, as there are no known school transmissions.
- There was a decrease in opening enrollment from last year, but as of December 1, there has been an increase in enrollment across the conference.
- Standards Based Learning is in its first phase across NPUC, and will be implemented in a 3-year process.
- Recognizing the additional challenges teachers face daily, the education department is emphasizing "teacher care" with an updated COVID sick leave policy, a "recharge" day, personal affirmations, and highlighting available mental health resources.
- Stephanie Gates reported that Cascade Christian Academy continues to enroll new students. Grades K-10 are in-person and grades 11-12 are virtual.

### Ministerial update

- It was voted to approve hiring Angelo Simorangkir as a pastoral intern to serve in the Cheney/Spokane South Hill district beginning July 1, 2021.

## INCOMING/TRANSFERRING PASTORS



**Greg Carter**  
Senior pastor  
Spokane Central



**Mike Lambert**  
Pastor  
Otis Orchards/Post Falls



**Kenton Gonzalez**  
Associate pastor  
Yakima 35th



**Ken LeBrun**  
Pastor  
Touchet/Umapine/  
WW Northside

## ACTIVE PASTORAL SEARCHES

- Brewster/Chelan
- Goldendale/Condon
- Inchelium/Kettle Falls/Northport

- Kennewick
- Dayton/Stateline

