

PRESIDENT'S

Report

ADVENTISTS RESPOND TO FLOODING

In early February, severe flooding hit several areas in southwest Washington and eastern Oregon. Without hesitation, Adventists across the state mobilized. Students from Walla Walla University, Walla Walla Valley Academy and elsewhere filled almost 40,000 bags of sand. Adventist volunteers served meals, churches offered a gathering place, and Son-Bridge was on standby as an overnight shelter for survivors.

Adventist Community Services sent a trailer full of 146 flood buckets filled with supplies last Spring by UCC Pathfinders that were distributed in Waitsburg, Dayton, Walla Walla and Pendleton, OR, in addition to the emotional and spiritual care teams with Adventist ministers. WWU's Center for Humanitarian Engagement is assisting in coordinating university volunteers. A donations management warehouse opened in Pendleton within a few days of the flooding and will coordinate the various donations for people in need until the end of March.

As our director for Adventist Community Services, Patty Marsh, sits in on meetings

with other disaster relief ministries, she is struck by how much they are appreciative of how we, as Adventists, respond to disasters.

Our volunteers, laypersons, and Adventist Community Services personnel are carrying the banner of Christ through their service.

Not only are others being helped and quality of life is improving, but they are laying the ground work for those in need to learn about Christ through this example of selfless service.

It is breathtaking to behold how God is surely using all of us in various ministries in our local communities.

Donations are being accepted to help those affected by these floods. For more information, see our website at uccsda.org. The need is still great in these areas and our Adventist Community Services could use your prayers.



M I N N E R L A B R A D O R J R .



1,228

total new members
2019

%
48

% new members under
the age of 18 • 2019



493

total baptisms
2019



ACTIONS TAKEN AT 2.27.20 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Jeff Wines, our director of young adult and youth ministries, gave a report on the ministry of Camp MiVoden, including a statistical recap of the 2019 summer camps.

- Rodney Mills, UCC vice president for administration, gave a 2019 year-end church statistical report; including membership, tithe, and attendance for each church.

- Brian Harris, UCC vice president for education, gave a report on plans for a teachers' retreat at Camp MiVoden in August; updates to student achievement tests; and the vision process with teachers, pastors, and school constituents.

- Allee Currier, UCC vice president for finance shared the 2020 budget. Highlights from her budget report are:

- 2019 tithe 2% less than 2018 = \$25,951,621
- Percentage of tithe basis – 99%
- Wage increase – 1.6% effective July 1, 2020
- ERI % adjustment – Effective July 1, 2020

- A new policy covering supporting ministries in the Upper Columbia Conference was approved:

The Upper Columbia Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (UCC) desires to work in Christian unity with supporting organizations in the spreading of the gospel. Open communication with UCC is necessary to maintain harmonious working relationships with such ministries; and to guard against perceptions created through misunderstandings, accusations, and discord.

Therefore such supporting organizational ministries must exhibit the following

characteristics:

- Clearly affirm in both word and practice the twenty-eight fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
- Clearly affirm and support in both word and practice the Upper Columbia Conference organization, its structure and policies.
- Pursue a collaborative mission that accords with that of the Upper Columbia Conference.
- Offer open accountability structures that include representatives of the Seventh-day Adventist organization.
- As counseled by Ellen White, they must use "Christlike tenderness" (Letter 62, 1900) towards anyone within the sisterhood of churches who does not align with the supporting ministry.

Local congregations and other conference entities are encouraged to:

- Collaborate with such organizations as may be appropriate in their work, including inviting representatives to speak.
- Consult with the conference before inviting the participation of representatives of organizations that do not clearly meet the above characteristics.

- It was voted that the relationship between Upper Columbia Conference and World Church Affirmation Sabbath is to now be governed by the Upper Columbia Conference Supporting Ministry Policy. Pastors and local church boards may look to the policy to help navigate the relationship.

INCOMING PASTORS



William Kasper
Senior Pastor
Spokane South Hill/Cheney



Howard Tello
Pastor
Chewelah/Deer Park

ACTIVE PASTORAL SEARCHES

- Athol/Spokane Multi-Cultural
- Coeur D'Alene
- Selah/Yakima Fairview
- Upper Columbia Academy
- Walla Walla University (Associate)

