

PRESIDENT'S

Report

MISSION IGNITION

The past several months have been groundbreaking in the area of science. In late 2020, we received the news that several vaccines are now available in the fight against COVID. We can now see the light at the end of this dark tunnel, though it is still several months away. More recently, science has had another breakthrough with the recent rover landing on Mars. As I view the photos and video relayed from the Perseverance, I am reminded yet again of how God blesses. From His creation of planets, to His creation of amazing scientific minds, to His creation of the concept of teamwork — God has blessed richly.

When you think about the work that it takes to land a rover on another planet, the bulk of the work happens prior to launch. Conceptions, testing, and teamwork must occur long before mission ignition. So it is with our conference.

At the end of 2019, our conference identified the vision of One More. This vision truly put our mission of “equipping and empowering churches and ministries that reach our communities with the Christ-centered message of hope

and wholeness” into focus. We are focused on bringing One More to His kingdom. But what does that look like? In the context of our conference, what does One More mean?

During the past year, our teams have worked together to conceptualize, test, and increase our teamwork to answer these questions and develop a plan. We are now ready for Mission Ignition, the moment our conference puts into operation our plan for One More. Our mission for One More is one of discovery and perseverance, but it is not one we take on alone.

You are a critical piece of our plan. It is our prayer that God will work through you and your church to make One More connection, One More relationship and bring One More to His kingdom.

Stay tuned for more information about this exciting initiative. Won't you be a part of it?



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



1753

students currently
attending UCC schools

%

6.61

increase in tithe year-to-
date compared to 2019



262

baptisms/professions
of faith in 2020



ACTIONS TAKEN AT 2.25.21 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President's update

- Minner Labrador, UCC president, shared a report on conference goals in the vision for One More campaign. Department directors are forming plans specific to their area of ministry for each of the goals: Unity, Engagement, Equip & Empower, and Excellence. The directors will present their plans to administration and staff at the end of March. More information regarding the plans for One More will be forthcoming in future communications.

Administration update

- Rodney Mills, UCC vice president for administration, reported on conference membership for 2020.
- COVID-19 has had a significant impact on baptisms and professions of faith in the conference. In 2020, there were 262 baptisms.
- The story of Garrick Odenberg was shared. Odenberg met and began having Bible studies with Dusty Borders, a Bible worker at Spokane Valley Adventist Church. Odenberg was baptized by Borders during camp meeting in June 2020.
- Jared Spano also shared the story of a recent baptism of one of his church members, Jason Wickersham.
- It was voted to appoint Francisco Villa to fill the vacancy on the Financial and Statistical Review Committee.
- It was voted to elect Florencio Bueno to fill the employee vacancy on the Conference Executive Committee.

Financial update

- Allee Currier, UCC vice president for finance, presented an update on conference finances.
- God has richly blessed the work in Upper Columbia Conference. Tithe has increased year-to-date to 6.61% from 2019. The average annual tithe increase is 1.8%.
- There were 52 Sabbaths in both 2020 and 2019. Per Sabbath average giving was \$533,737 for 2020 compared to \$499,070 for 2019.
- The conference expenses were approximately 5% lower than budgeted. This is primarily due to lower expenses for employee costs, programs, and committees/meetings.
- It was voted to receive the November and December 2020 Finance Reports, subject to audit.
- It was voted to accept the 2020 Local Church & School Audit Report.
- It was voted to approve the 2021 Upper Columbia Conference Budget.

Education update

- Brian Harris, UCC vice president for education, reported that all UCC schools are now holding in-person classes. COVID protocols continue to work well to mitigate any outbreaks within the schools.
- Enrollment has continued to increase since October and now stands at 1,753.
- Ruth Lenz, a teacher at Palisades Christian Academy in Spokane, shared a moving story of how one difficult student of hers changed his life for the better at PCA.

INCOMING/TRANSFERRING PASTORS



J. Omar Rodriguez
Pastor
Brester/Chelan



Charles Brown
Pastor (Interim)
Goldendale/Condon

ACTIVE PASTORAL SEARCHES

- Inchelium/Kettle Falls/Northport
- Kennewick
- Dayton/Stateline

