



UPDATES FROM OCC OREGON CHRISTIAN CONVENTION

Winter 2021

www.oregonchristianconvention.org 503-743-2101

A ministry of
the Christian
Churches and
Churches of
Christ

The Unity Project

United Congregations in a Divided World

02.27.2021

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oregonchristianconvention.org
facebook.com/unityprojectOR

THE UNITY PROJECT exists to encourage and equip Christians to unite around Christ and to bring the unity of Christ to our divided world. We believe that the Gospel is the solution to the division that wracks our families and communities, and that only united churches can bring the unity of Christ to the world around them. For that reason, our focus this year is on congregational unity: equipping churches to overcome internal divisions and become places of reconciliation and peace.

OBVIOUSLY THIS YEAR THINGS ARE GOING TO BE A LITTLE DIFFERENT, BUT IN THIS CASE THAT'S ACTUALLY A GOOD THING! Rather than having a single gathering at the Oregon Christian Convention in February, the Unity Project is producing material for churches to use to get their own congregations talking about unity. The 2021 Unity Project could take a lot of different forms in your church: a single-day event, a weekly gathering, a small group or Sunday School curriculum—whatever works best for your context! What better place to talk about congregational unity than within your own congregations?

OUR VISION FOR THIS YEAR BEGAN WITH AN OBSERVATION: THE PEOPLE WHO FOLLOWED JESUS WERE A REALLY ODD GATHERING OF PEOPLE. When you look at the background of the Twelve Apostles and the other followers of Jesus, there is no reason why they should have been able to get along with each other. Their culture was even more deeply divided than ours. And yet they did stay together in common purpose long after Jesus ascended. What changed them? How did Jesus mold them into a single body? How did Jesus teach unity? How is he teaching it to our churches today?

THE 2021 UNITY PROJECT IS DESIGNED TO BE A CONVERSATION: we have asked several speakers to prepare short sermons on how Jesus taught unity to his disciples, but the real work happens when the videos end and the discussion begins. With provided materials, your congregation, small group or class will be led into discussions about what it means to follow Jesus together as a body, and be encouraged by our common cause in sharing the Good News of Jesus with the world around us. We hope you will join us this year for the 2021 Unity Project!

Matt Holmes, Turner Christian Church

Get more information and sign-up to receive updates at
mynwcc.org/unityproject2021



EQUIPPING THE BODY OF CHRIST: for 168 years OCC has worked in the Northwest to achieve this goal. "...for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith..." Ephesians 4:12-13a

Turner Youth Conference 1934



Don't miss
JUMP START!
offered by
e2effectiveelders
this month.
Check it out on
the OCC
website, click
the Elder/
Pastor
Conference link
under events.

June 23-27, 2021

**169th NwCC at the historic Oregon Christian Convention
Conference & Retreat Center**

Theme: A GOOD ENDURANCE



169th Northwest Christian Convention@ the Oregon Christian Convention

A Good Endurance

In this unprecedented time of a pandemic, political division and racial strife, the world is stumbling under the weight of these immense challenges. Who will offer a better way forward as we seem so stuck and mired in our own agendas. We find our strength failing as we tire from the seemingly unending anger, illness and loss. We seem helpless to find solutions, especially ones that unify and renew.

The Church is called to be God's good model of hope, love and healing. How can the world look to us when we seem unable to find the strength to live differently? The Good News is we can look to Christ for strength, heart and response. Our Messiah and King offers an honest example of how to live with His Kingdom in mind and not an earthly one.

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV)

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

We need a Jesus perspective to navigate our own weakness, the challenge of discipleship and church's mission. How do we hold ourselves as His followers? What are the ways we engage as neighbors and peacemakers? How do we shine the light of Christ to a world that needs goodness and truth more than ever? How do we comfort and take care of the hurting and marginalized?

How do we endure with the strength of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit?

This year's convention offers a way forward to us as His Children, as His Body of the Church, and as a renewed people of hope for our world.

Troy Dean, President, 169th Northwest Christian Convention
Campus Pastor & Assistant Professor, Christian Ministry, Bushnell University



2021 is a defining year of unity in the body of Christ. OCC is creating powerful tools and resources for you to use in your church families that will build unity and strengthen the ability of your church to shine bright in 2021 and beyond. This month church leadership can connect with e2elders for a powerful Jump Start workshop. It's available to sign-up for right now on the OCC website. As we navigate the coming months

OCC is committed to being a place of unity both onsite and online. Your participation is always a vital element in the continuing growth of OCC's mission to equip and unite the church.

Dianne McIntosh

OCC Staff:

Dianne McIntosh: Administrator
Ann Cecil: Treasurer
John Love: Guest Services & Maintenance
John McIntosh: Grounds Maintenance

**"In matters of faith,
unity. In matters of
opinion, liberty. But
in all things love."**

Thomas Campbell

www.oregonchristianconvention.org

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2020 GIFTS IN MEMORY

Jim Aydelott

Dorothy Grover
Frank & Virginia Musgrave
Jerry & Becky Rudberg

Bob Gregory

Betty Gregory
Ron Gregory
Joan & Randy Mogen
Dean & Peggy Stephens

Gladys Gregory

Betty Gregory

Ken Gregory

Betty Gregory

Lynn Gregory

Dorothy Grover
Betty Gregory
Ron Gregory

Hilda Huff

Betty Gregory

Rex & Eileen Lawson

Carol Lawson

Donna L. Moore

Laurence Moore

Norlene Payne

Ron Gregory

Suallen Penhollow

Bill Penhollow

Ray & Louise Pulsifer

Dorothy Grover

Pearl Rahn

Carol Lawson

Gideon & Sara Rudberg

Jerry & Becky Rudberg

Gertrude Shields

Gary & Pat Tiffin

Keith Sorensen

Dorothy Grover

Rory & Andy Stedman

Don & Jeanette Campbell

Lucille Telfer

Shirley Robb
Gary & Pat Tiffin

Al and Elsie Tiffin

Jerry & Rebecca Rudberg

GIFTS IN HONOR

Gary Munkers & Rick

Warner

Betty Gregory

OCC Staff

Jerry & Becky Rudberg