



All Peoples  
United Church of Christ  
**SOJOURNER NEWS**

A Central Oregon House Church

October, 2016

Vol. XVI, Number 1

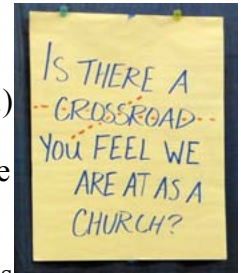
## CENTRAL PACIFIC CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING TITLED “SMALL TABLES; BIG CHANGES”

Nancy Cook Reporting  
Telling the story of All Peoples United Church of Christ (APUCC), connecting with other progressive Christian United Church of Christ (UCCers), voicing approval or not for the business of the conference, worshipping together!! It was an awesome weekend planned and executed by an astute Central Pacific Conference (CPC) team of the United Church of Christ (UCC) clergy and lay leaders (UCCers). All we could say at the end was “WOW!”

The small tables format proved to be a stimulating, dynamic way to connect with our fellow progressive Christians. (See readings at the bottom of p. 2 for indepth

descriptions of the process.) UCC is, above all, a band of followers of Jesus, hence the name United Church of Christ. None of us was required to check our brains at the door; in fact, exactly the opposite. We turned our brains to questions like:

- Are we at a crossroad as a conference, as a denomination, as individual congregations? So what? We pretty much agreed that we are at a crossroad and we have options.
- What are your recommendations for us to be well in the crossroad? Many summarized that for us to be well we must trust,



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simplify, and exper-  
iment.

- Two groups Nancy attended talked about the future of faith communities and if “the church is dead” how do we do public theology? In those groups, the story of APUCC resonated with those conversing together.
- David sponsored a group asking the question: how can geographically isolated congregations cooperate? David, Nancy, Pris, and Susi are now in conversation with Tim Graves, pastor of the Condon, OR, United Church of Christ about possible meaningful connections APUCC can make with their also small, isolated congregation.

Doing the business of the conference amounted to more than just accepting the slate of officers and budgets as presented. The slate of officers and volunteers for the conference’s ministry teams was approved quickly with no concerns. The budget as

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*Above—At the outset, we gathered in a huge circle in the great room of the Pendleton conference center. In spite of the conference title, “Small Tables; Big Changes,” there wasn’t a small table in sight! There **was** a mound of items piled in the center of the circle. They served to inspire and facilitate ice-breaking exercises in which all attendees participated. As we soon learned, the tables were all in the other half of this huge room, behind a divider curtain. We ate meals in that area as well as conducted the “small tables” parts of the program.*

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presented was a different story. There was extended conversation concerning the budget, promises from several congregations to reassess their OCWM contributions with hopes of increasing their contributions, and a “no” vote to approve the budget. The budget now goes back to the Board of Directors for consideration of the comments from the delegates to the annual meeting modification and final approval.

We approved all three resolutions referred to the delegates of the meeting. The resolutions concerned working with the YWCA of Palestine, declaring the churches of the Central Pacific Conference of the UCC and immigrant –welcoming churches, and resolving to divest from private prison corporation in our investments.

Worship on Sunday morning was inspiring and hopeful. Linda Jaramillo—recently retired from the national UCC Justice and Peace Ministry, Jonathan Morgan of Eugene’s First Congregational UCC, and Jennifer Butler, Corvallis First Congregational UCC

Below—Behind the divider curtain, tables afforded small group conversation opportunities



preached messages of hope as we go forth and forward.

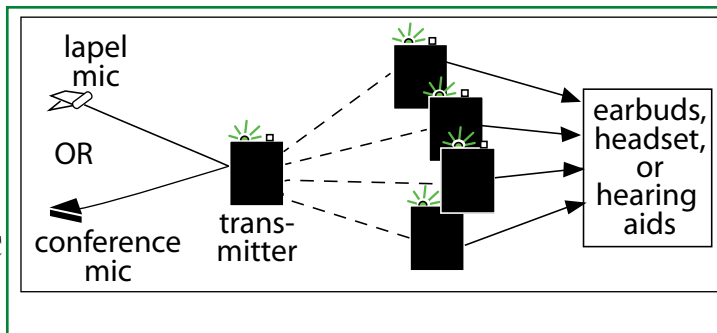
Tenneson-Woolf, leader of our “Small Tables, Big Changes” conference opened one session with the quote: “If you want to go faster, go alone. If you want to go farther, go together.” In the final analysis, we ALL agreed that we want to go farther! ▲

\*Readings/web sites about conversation around small tables:  
<http://www.theworldcafe.com/>  
<https://thesystemsthinker.com/conversational-leadership-thinking-together-for-a-change/>  
<http://tennesonwoolf.com/>  
<http://openspaceworld.org/wp2/>

## NOW HEAR THIS— HEARING ASSISTANCE 101

by David Cook

Hearing assistance technology is now available for those attending Bible Bookworms, Sunday Worship, Last-Monday Fellowship, and other APUCC gatherings. The portable user units consist of a receiver and a choice of earpiece: headphones, earbud, or neck-loop. The latter device is a necklace that takes the place of an earpiece and works with compatible hearing aids. Once the selected earpiece is plugged into the receiver, users activate the hand-held receiver by simply turning the on-off knob on the top of the receiver until it clicks **on**—a green light on the top of the receiver lights up when the receiver is on. Next, rotate the knob to the desired sound level. Please be sure to turn the on-off knob until it clicks into the **off** position when finished using the unit to conserve the battery power. The green light on the top of the receiver goes out when the unit is off. The receiver and earpiece are stored in the sound system carry case.



The receivers get their FM signal via a preselected ADA FM frequency broadcast by the portable transmitter. The transmitter (which looks very much like the receivers) picks up sound from one of two different microphones. One mic is a small desktop conference microphone attached to the transmitter for group meetings like Bible Bookworms. You will usually notice the transmitter and conference mic placed somewhere in the center of the group.

During worship, the worship leader wears a lapel mic. It attaches to the transmitter also worn by the leader. When the lapel mic is in use, the worship leader will need to remember to move to the general vicinity of another speaker, e.g. during announcements,

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for the mic to pick up the voice of the other speaker. To turn the transmitter on, press the **on-off button** on top of the unit for **three seconds**. The green light on top of the unit activates steady green to indicate the unit is on. Use the same action to turn the unit off—hold down the on-off button for **three seconds**. The green light goes out to indicate the unit is off. **CAUTION**—if the button is held for a shorter period of time the unit will go into mute mode! **ALSO**—for best reception, place the hand-held receiver unit in a direct line-of-sight to the conference mic or the speaker’s mic.

When not in use the conference mic is kept in a small plastic bag in the carry case. The lapel mic is stored in the small plastic bag with a **green** label. This helps distinguish it from the earbuds which look similar and are also stored in small plastic bags.

Those who have tried it out, will assure you it’s easy and simple to use.

### **Happy Hearing.**

PS. For those who may wish to purchase their own personal receiver and earpiece, they are available from several online vendors. ▲

## **DISCOVERED... APUCC HAS A TURKISH/ SYRIAN CONNECTION**

Evelyn, one of our newer congregants, has a connection to Turkey, which is housing many Syrian refugees that can help us to gain understanding of the problems and situation in the Middle East. Evelyn’s daughter, Sidney, is teaching English in Izmir (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/izmir>) in western Turkey. Sidney’s partner, Jacques, has been volunteering with Syrian refugees in the city.

Jacques is working with a group called ReVi in Izmir. ReVi, according to their web site (<http://revifamily.org/join>) is:

...a group of international and local volunteers and our goal is to help the refugees with sustainable job opportunities and solutions. We’re currently working with families in Izmir (Turkey) who plan to stay in Turkey.

ReVi also has a Facebook page with posts about current projects and activities at <https://www.facebook.com/joinrevi/>.

ReVi began working with Syrian refugees in Izmir last January (2016). Volunteers from

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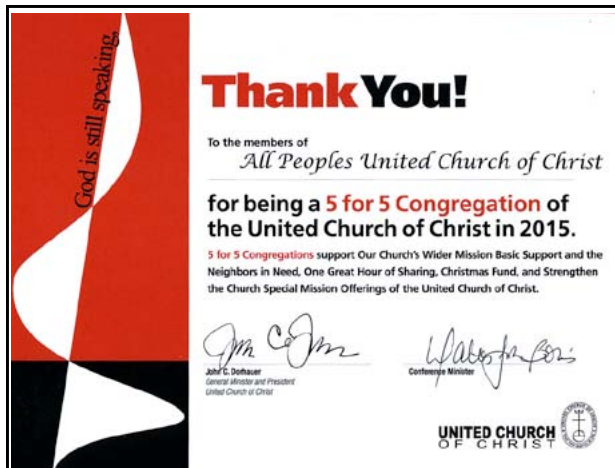
all over the world have come to Izmir to help the eighty-plus Syrian families there. Their intention is to provide long-term help for those families trying to rebuild their lives in a new country. Many of these refugees are women, children, or elderly people lacking jobs or income.

ReVi sponsors a school for the Syrian children and pays Syrian primary teachers in the school. In addition ReVi provides wool and beads to some families who make items to sell online and help support ReVi's efforts to help their families.

Want to help? There is a link on the web site to donate via PayPal or credit card for specific items needed by these refugees. ▲ Nancy Cook, Moderator

## **MORE CHARITABLE GIVING**

APUCC continues the plan to give to issues and causes that touch our hearts and fulfill Jesus' commandments. Lately, \$100 checks have gone out to the defense fund of the Standing Rock Sioux in their battle against the Dakota Pipe Line (DPL?) and, more locally, to our sister church, First Congregational UCC of Vancouver, for aid in reconstruction after their church fire. ▲



## **ANOTHER 5-for-5 certificate!**

No, we are not complaining... we are just a wee bit impressed that the CPC has recognized All Peoples every year at the annual meeting since our founding. That means that we have never missed contributing to each of the five annual offerings collected by our national offices.

**AND, It's time again.** The fourth 2016 offering is due to be received on October 2 for Neighbors in Need (NIN). If you wonder where NIN money goes, check out the national web site at: <http://www.ucc.org/> ▲

## OCTOBER WORSHIP PLANS

All Peoples UCC meets to worship the first and third Sundays of each month at 11 a.m. Bible study meets from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Worship will be in Redmond at St. Charles Hospital's Juniper Room.

### FINDING ST. CHARLES HOSPITAL IN REDMOND

- **From the north**—From Hwy 97 reroute in Redmond, right on Larch; first left on Canal, right on Kingwood, 3rd right into parking lot.
- **From the south**— coming north on Redmond Hwy 97 reroute, exit left at Glacier, right on 5th all the way north through town to Kingwood, right on Kingwood, go 1.75 blocks, and turn left into the hospital parking lot.
- **From east or west** on Hwy 126, go north on 5th and follow south-side directions.
- **Finding the Juniper Room**—Enter at the main entrance or the next door on the left. Go left to the end of the hall and then right to the first room on left, opposite the rest rooms.



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**October 2nd**—11 a.m. Worship: Sue Flory  
10 a.m. Discussing “Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha and Mohammed Cross the Road?” by Brian McLaren, Chaps. 19–21

**October 16th**—11 a.m.—  
Worship: Laurie Power  
10:a.m.—Discussing “Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha and Mohammed Cross the Road?” by Brian McLaren, Chaps. 22–23

### SOJOURNER NEWS

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Please join us every first and third Sunday for  
worship at 11 a.m.

For additional information and location/date  
of the next worship service, email the above.

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