



INLAND STREAM

INLAND WEST USA MISSION CENTER NEWS

Inland Stream Spring-Summer 2019

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“Oh, the Places You'll Go!”

By Brad A. Martell

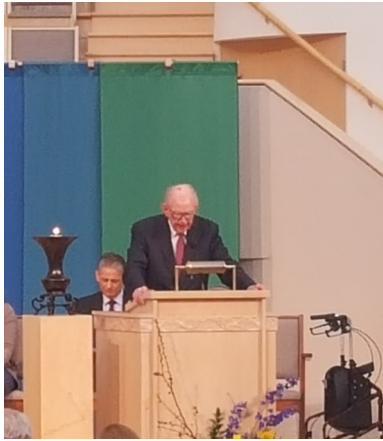
When I graduated from high school 29 years ago one of the gifts I received was a copy of Dr. Seuss's *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* I still have it and every so often I pull it from the bookshelf and re-read it. It is a book about the journey of life. There will be ups and downs, dark and scary places, new places to encounter, new relationships, learning new things, and discovering about one's self. Reading the book always inspires me to reflect upon my life and the many places I have gone. For me it was also about paying attention to where God's Spirit had led me and was leading, and being aware of blessings along the way.

Over the past three and half years serving as the Inland West Mission Center president I have been to many places. It was hard not to go to many places since the geography of the mission center is huge. I have been extremely blessed by you opening your homes to me and providing me a bed to sleep in. I'm most grateful for your invitations to your tables to share meals together with your families. It is with deep gratitude and humility I thank you for your prayers, support, encouragement, confidence, honesty, humor, and gifts. Lori and I have been extremely blessed by the ministry and friendship we have received. Thank you for walking with us on this part of our journey.

Our decision to leave employment with the church has been a difficult one, but we feel it is time to pursue other vocational opportunities. Lori and I are not sure the places our next adventure will take us. But we trust in the Spirit to guide and bless us. Our commitment to Community of Christ endures, and our love, support, prayers and thoughts will continue for each of you into the future.

God's blessings to you, your loved ones, and your congregations.

World Conference 2019 By Sandy Decker



From the first day when we celebrated the anniversary of the Temple to the closing Worship service, World Conference was a wonderful experience.

This year's conference was unique because it began with a celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the dedication of the Temple. We were led in worship by the First Presidency to commemorate the Temple and what it means for us to become people of the Temple. President Emeritus Wallace B. Smith offered a prayer for peace that was based on the first prayer for peace offered in the Temple in 1993.

We moved from the Temple Sanctuary to the World Plaza to watch the Flag Ceremony that typically starts World Conference. A new Peace Pillar on the Plaza was dedicated by the Council of Twelve Apostles as they read to the assembly the word for peace in each

language where the church has a presence in the world. Peace is inscribed on the pillar in these 90 plus languages. This was a wonderful celebration and it was just the first afternoon of conference.



Through the week we shared together in worship, in spiritual formation, in fellowship and in the business of the church.



I will share some highlights for me.

The Communion Service on Sunday: Being in the Auditorium Conference Chambers sharing with so many people in communion is a spirit filled experience. What particularly struck me this year was watching the servers descending the stairs from the rostrum with the emblems as they were preparing to serve us. There was such great diversity in the servers – women and men, young and old, from many different cultures, some dressed in the garb from their native country. It impressed upon me that we truly are a World church.

The music: I am always particularly touched by music and this week was no different. From the beautiful organs in both facilities to the international choirs to the conference body singing together in rich harmony, the music during the week filled my soul.

The legislative sessions: Many people may find these sessions long and boring (I suppose I did on some days) but I always find it very interesting to be part of the decision making and business of the church. Check out the actions taken by the conference at: <https://www.cofchrist.org/common/cms/resources/Official-Actions-2019-World-Conference.pdf>.



We also received financial updates, while we still have a long way to go on our finances it was good to get an update and know where we stand. More information is available at: <https://www.cofchrist.org/financial-updates>.

Ordinations: We watched as two new apostles were ordained, David Nii and Catherine Mambwe and the ordination of Jeff Naylor as a member of the Presiding Bishopric.



Diverse Worship Services: The worship services were led by a group of diverse and very talented people. Each offered an experience that was spirited filled and touched my heart in different ways.

World Conference is an amazing experience. This is only the second conference I have had the opportunity to share in but I can say I am hooked and hope to be able to attend many in the future.



Women's Retreat Filled with Joy: Living a full life in the Spirit August 23-25, 2019 Camp Cascade, ID

Come and join in a loving community as we explore the connections between joy, wonder, awe, and spiritual encounter. This weekend is open to all women and we hope it will be a time to be renewed and refreshed.

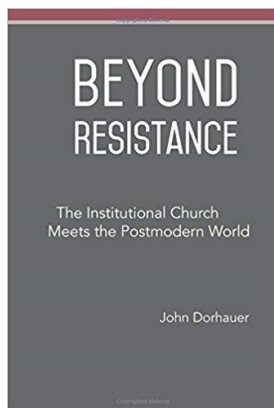
Guest Ministry: Katie Harmon-McLaughlin

Registration Fee: \$65.00 early bird by August 9, 2019
\$75.00 after August 9, 2019

Registration and more information is posted on
www.cofchrist-iwest.org. Online registration is available at [https://
form.jotform.com/90857257789175](https://form.jotform.com/90857257789175).

Beyond Resistance

Book Recommendation by Brad A. Martell



Beyond Resistance: The Institutional Church Meets the Postmodern World.
By John Dorhauer. Chicago, IL: Exploration Press, 2015. 158 pp.

Beyond Resistance reminds us that “the church was birthed for mission.” However, living out mission in today’s context has many challenges. The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer, currently serving as ninth General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, shares his observations and experiences to address some of the realities facing the institutional church today for living out mission.

In chapter one “Death and Dignity” Dorhauer considers three important realities: 1) declining birthrates in the United States has found us with an oversupply of churches and too few people to fill them; 2) related to birthrates is the growing expense of maintaining our aging properties (i.e., church buildings and campgrounds) and the critical question if our properties are truly serving missional purposes; and 3) the cultural changes related to postmodernity – specifically people’s rejection of universal truth, how people are learning differently, and distrust of institutional authority. Chapter 2 “Mission Resources” explores how the church is birth for mission, how mission requires discernment and trust in the Spirit, and discovering new missional partners. Chapter 3 “Grieving, Believing, Perceiving” highlights the process of grieving the loss of declining membership and ending ministries; the difficult decisions in the face of change, and perceiving or seeing the vision of hope beyond the time of grief and pain.

Chapter four “2.0 and 3.0” Dorhauer, admitting to an oversimplification of Christian history and the radical changes Christianity has experienced, divides church history into three periods: before the Reformation he refers to as the church 1.0, after the Reformation as the church 2.0, and whatever is emerging now as church 3.0. The next chapters “Postmodernity and Authority,” “New Metrics,” and “A Growing Multiplicity focus on aspects of church 1.0, 2.0, and how 3.0 is emerging. The ending chapters “Reimagine,” “The Mount,” and “The Emergent Desert,” offer examples of emerging 3.0 missional expressions. The concluding chapter “What, Then, Are We to Say about These Things?” offers a good summary of the whole book that is intended to start conversations about mission.

Beyond Resistance is a good resource for congregations. Although not a comprehensive analysis of the complex realities facing the church as we engage in mission, it offers thoughtful large brushstrokes of information, questions, and examples. I highly recommend this missional resource.

Inland West Blog—Readers Needed!

Please take the time to read our blog, your heart will be touched by the wonder of God’s love. Consider sharing your testimony of how God has changed your life. If you would like to contribute to the blog contact Lavera Wade at k7zall@gmail.com. The blog is at <http://cofchrist-inlandwest.blogspot.com/>. And sign up to receive the blog directly to your e-mail. This is a once monthly posting so it will not fill up your inbox!

News Around the Mission Center

The Whitehall, MT congregation has long supported the Butte Rescue Mission which is a homeless shelter in Butte, MT. This past year the mission lost its facilities when they didn't meet with the fire standards and safety codes. They have spent over a year finding and funding a new site for the Rescue Mission. We were asked to help make and provide new blankets for the new facilities which due to several delays will not open until March or later this year. These are some of the blankets that the congregation made for the new shelter.



Spiritual Formation and Companionship Program

This is a three-year formation and training program for spiritual seekers, companions and leaders. Let's hear from one of the participants.

Walking onto the Happy Valley Campground I sensed a spirit of love and welcoming from each of those who were called to serve us and who had been praying for us. Terry and I remarked that we felt as one with the group from the beginning. All nervousness about this program fell away. I think all those who came were just hungry for connection with God from the start.

When the first class by Laurie Gordon ended, I felt like dancing before God! Laurie, a retired Research Biologist, Spiritual Director and Evangelist in Community of Christ, showed us how God is always beyond our understanding of God. I was filled with humility and joy. Her classes were only part of the experience of worship I was blessed to enjoy.

When around 100 voices joined together to sing, I wondered if people were chosen because of their ability to sing. The worship leader was Katie Harmon-Mclaughlin, a Spiritual Formation Specialist. I came so needy and I was not let down. The Spiritual Formation Team taught us many ways to connect with God: Holy Attention, Lectio Divina, Centering Prayer, Contemplative Prayer, Dwelling in the Word, Prayer of Examen and more.

We walked among the redwoods; hiked the mountain behind us; ate delicious, nutritious food; and visited with old and new friends. In small covenant discipleship groups, we shared stories of our own journeys and learned how to listen to others.

I came to this experience feeling so flat and in need of uplift. I'm now so excited to continue on this journey with others and with God. I believe God has brought me to this place and I feel thankful that God has never let me down on my journey.

Carol Ann Reiff



Inland West Mission Center 2019 Reunions

Theme: "Following the Spirit"

Samish Island Reunion

June 22 to June 28

Samish Island Campground

Bow, WA

Guest Ministry:

David Anderson

Inland West Staff: Sandy Decker

Director: Lisa & Keith Stecher

**Contact: Irmasterspraise-
god@gmail.com**

Echo Valley Reunion

June 27 to July 1

Echo Valley Campground

Avon, MT

Guest Ministry:

Mike & Nancy Hoffman

Inland West Staff: JoAnn Fisher

Director: Mary Beth Hunter

Contact:

mbh.nomadnurse@gmail.com

Red Cliffe Reunion

July 5 to July 10

Red Cliffe Campground

Huntsville, UT

Guest Ministry:

Robin Linkhart

Inland West Staff: Denise & Blair

White, Sandy Decker

Director: Carla Long

Contact: clong@cofchrist.org

Cascade Reunion

July 9 to July 14

Cascade Campground

Cascade, ID

Guest Ministry:

Dave and Carolyn Brock

Inland West Staff: JoAnn Fisher

Director: Andrea Silva and

Planning Team

Contact: stampin.silva@gmail.com

Early registration is always appreciated. You'll find more information and online registration for all reunions at www.cofchrist-iwest.org.

**Inland West
2019
Summer
Youth Camps**



**Red Cliffe
Kids Camp**

June 7 –9

Camp Red Cliffe

Huntsville, UT

For youth who have completed
grades K –6

Director: Brittany Mangelson

801-615-3099

bmangelson@cofchrist.org

**Echo Valley
Youth Camp**

July 31 - August 4

Echo Valley Camp

Avon, MT

For youth going into
grades 4 –9

Director:

Robin Martell

406-671-1914

[rmartellrealestate@
gmail.com](mailto:rmartellrealestate@gmail.com)

**Cheney Kids
Camp**

June 14-16

Cheney, WA

For youth age 7 - 12

Director: Kathleen Strozyk

509-636-2011

kmstrozyk7@gmail.com

**Cascade Jr/Sr
High Camp**

August 3 - 8

Camp Cascade

Cascade, ID

For youth ages 13 - 18

Director: Andrea Silva

208-954-2205

stampin.silva@gmail.com

**Join us at an Inland West youth camp
this summer!**

**Details including online registration and forms for camps
at cofchrist-iwest.org. Register soon as possible.**

Our camping program relies on dedicated volunteers such as directors, counselors, teachers, cooks, and nurses. We extend a big "Thank you!" to all who take on these important roles for our youth. If you'd like to help at a youth camp this summer, please contact the director listed above or call the Mission Center office at 800-918-8335.

**Inland West USA Mission Center
Community of Christ
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Spokane Valley, WA 99206**

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**Mark Your Calendar!
2019 Mission Center Conference is
September 28-29
in Whitehall, MT**

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