



# Pacific Northwest CONFERENCE NEWS

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## Sunnyslope church engages ecumenically

### Church joins in justice action, decolonization training and antiracism

The Sunnyslope Church (Brethren/UCC) in Wenatchee is keeping its members enlivened with their participation in community service and social justice ministries.

Dane Breslin, who was ordained as an Evangelical Lutheran Church in America pastor in December 2022, has served the church 16 months. Sharing in ministry with him is Jess Ingman, who works part time for Faith Action Network (FAN) as a regional organizer for North Central Washington.

**Both grew up Catholic** and their paths led them to work toward ordination in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through the Northwest Inter-mountain Synod.

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Jess Ingman and Oscar Litcan, executive director of NCW Equity Alliance, and Sarah Augustine for her “Decolonization for Transformation” training at the Sunnyslope Church (Brethren/UCC). Photos courtesy of Sunnyslope Brethren/UCC

## Annual Meeting theme is ‘Forward Together’

The Pacific Northwest Conference Annual Meeting 2024 opens with registration at noon and the first session at 1 p.m., Friday to Sunday, April 26 to 28, at Plymouth Church, 1217 Sixth Ave. in Seattle with a focus on the theme, “Forward Together,” based on Corinthians 4:8-10.

The gathering will welcome the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, general minister and president/CEO of the United Church of Christ, as keynote speaker, and PNC global partners Pablo Moreno and Xiomara Cintron-Garcia of Justapaz and CEDECOL, two peace, justice and human rights organizations in Bogota, Colombia.

Articles in this issue give more information on Karen Georgia on page 6

**Annual Meeting is  
Friday to Sunday,  
April 26 to 28  
at Plymouth Church  
in Seattle.**

and on Pablo and Xiomara on page 7.

The Annual Meeting will also welcome several new Samoan churches from Alaska into the conference.

Friday afternoon includes a presentation by the mission partners from Colombia, workshops and hearings on resolutions and the budget. There will be

an evening worship. Saturday includes a morning business plenary, worship welcoming new congregations with Karen Georgia preaching, and afternoon business plenaries.

Business, in addition to adopting the 2024-25 budget, will include considering two resolutions:

1) Adds an antiracism continuing education requirement every three years for PNC staff and board members, given that antiracism is “a set of beliefs and behaviors that must be renewed and refined over time. The requirement is “a small step to wards a shared commitment to see, address and dismantle white supremacy and racism” within the PNC starting with leadership.”

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# Acting conference minister introduces himself

## Reports & Comments



By The Rev. Phil Hodson  
Acting  
Conference  
Minister

Every number has a name. Every name has a story. Every story is worthy of celebration.

As you come to know me, you'll hear these words come out of my mouth with regularity, so I thought in this time of introduction to flesh them out a little bit by telling you why I believe they matter. To me. To you. To the Pacific Northwest Conference and to the United Church of Christ.

I first started using that phrase 11 years ago, when I was a United Methodist pastor charged with planting a new congregation in a military town that already had seven UMC congregations.

The task was simple: start a new church targeting young families with children in a community where the average age of a congregant was 68 but the average age of a citizen was 34.

In three years, my spouse Joelle and I, along with our infant son Xane and his 3-year-old brother Xander, grew a congregation that started meeting on a golf course into a two building campaign community of 125 adults, average age 31, and 55 kids, average age 4.

In growing the congregation, we met people where they were and built an experience to connect with their technological styles and musical tastes. We featured loud rock music, used environmental projection technology in the worship space, and tried unconventional preaching and teaching styles. The average sermon was 40 minutes long in line with the evangelical background of many folks. In doing this, the church resonated with the community we sought to engage. It became their church.

It also contained a multi-racial, 85 percent active duty military coalition that was heavy on officers and their families and largely LGTBTQIA+, in which we proclaimed that God is love and the gospel is an invitation to a reality where "everyone is welcome, seriously, everyone."

We met our community where they were and utilized the medium that resonated with them—see technology, rock-n-roll above—to share a message that knows no boundaries. We baptized babies, shared in discipleship experiences with folks from multiple and no faith

backgrounds, blessed same-gendered relationships—don't tell the Methodists, please—and walked with community members through addiction, PTSD and suicide attempts.

We were part of the good that God was doing in the transformation of hearts and lives.

I don't offer these experiences as boasting or puffery, simply as a means of understanding how my mind and heart work, because while these remain my guiding principles in life and faith, the Methodists were less than enthused and, one day, invited me to leave the church that we founded because they deemed my faith to be so inclusive as to be heretical.

Then my phone rang. On the other end was a voice I'd never heard before, but a name I quickly recognized: "Phil, you don't know me, but I've known you your entire life. My name is Alan Miller. I'm an old friend of your parents, a conference minister in the United Church of Christ, and I hear you think Jesus was a liberal."

I was literally packing up my office that morning and had nothing left to lose, so in a moment of pure honesty I simply replied, "Yes, I do."

Alan said, "So do I. Have you ever thought about joining the United Church of Christ? We could use someone with your particular skill-set."

In that moment I was offered the grace and new life I had promised others was theirs for the taking. It was an absolute revelation, my own lived reality that nothing is impossible with the help of God.

I came into the UCC as a Wesleyan entering into Calvinist pulpits and was called to two congregations in Wichita, Kansas, in 2017. Over our time together, these two became one, grew 40 percent by focusing on their specific demographic niche in their ministry context—progressive Christians 50 to 65. We built a digital production studio, and moved into a new building as COVID laid waste to our ability to gather together in-person.

Pastoring this community through the darkest days of the pandemic, through the murder of George Floyd, and political tumult, further

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## Transitions announced

**Steve King** of Spirit of Peace UCC in Issaquah was ordained Jan. 27 in that church's host church, Our Savior's Lutheran. For 20 years previously he has been in music/art, Christian education and ministerial roles. He was called to serve Vancouver UCC in the Central Pacific Conference.

**Dane Breslin** was installed as pastor of Sunnyslope UCC/Brethren Church in Wenatchee on Feb. 11.

**Lynn Nelson** of Colfax has received approval for exempt status.

**Margo Richardson** has had her transfer of standing from the Minnesota Conference.

**Warren Johnson's** licensed ministerial standing is renewed for one year. He is serving Forks First Congregational.

The leave of absence requested by **Louis Vetri** has been approved for a year.

**Larry Baker**, 86, who grew up in Olympia and graduated from the University of Puget Sound in 1960 and from Andover Newton Theological School in 1963, died Feb. 1. He served a year as intern at Monroe Congregational and was ordained in 1964 at Fauntleroy UCC. He returned to Monroe in the early 1970s and was pastor there for more than 30 years, commuting from Gig Harbor with Lauren Joy, his wife of 40 years. He worked with Comprehensive Mental Health of Pierce County and the nonprofit, Directions, guiding clients to mental health.

**Sonia Baker, 89**, died Jan. 15 at her home in Seattle. She grew up in Renton and earned a degree in English from the University of Arizona. She was married to Maurice Bell for 20 years and then married Kendall Baker in 1976.

They lived in Tucson where he was pastor of First Congregational UCC. She earned a master's degree in urban planning from the University of Arizona and worked in neighborhood planning. They served churches in Wisconsin, Kansas and California before moving in retirement to Seattle.

She is survived by her husband Kendall, four children, four step children, 13 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

## Clergywomen event set

Registration is now open for the 2024 UCC Antoinette Brown Society Clergywomen Leadership Event on the theme, "Weaving our Tapestry at the Intersections." It will be held Tuesday to Thursday, April 16 to 18 at the Charleston Harbor Resort and Marina in Mt. Pleasant, S.C.

The keynote presenters will be the 2023 Antoinette Brown Awardees, Rebecca Voelkel and Lisa Goods who will focus on intersections of race, gender and ministry.

*For information, email Tara Barber at [barbert@ucc.org](mailto:barbert@ucc.org). Online registration deadline is April 2.*

## Boundary Training available

Stevi Hamill of the PNC Committee on Ministry has found a Boundary Training opportunity in the Southern New England Conference to help authorized ministers renew their understanding and skills for maintaining boundaries in an ever-shifting landscape of ministry.

"Boundary Awareness Training: Through the Lens of Clergy Wellness" has 50 spaces available to all clergy. There are three sessions available on Zoom.

They are 6:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., PDT, Wednesday, June 5; 6:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. PDT, Monday Sept. 16, and 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 12 to 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 13.

Sessions will include presentations, videos and small group sharing that explore the UCC Ministerial Code, managing self through change, fatigue and stress, and tools for personal and professional wellbeing.

Plans are being arranged by Deb Holmes.

*For information, call 508-244-4299, email [holmesd@sneucc.org](mailto:holmesd@sneucc.org) or visit [sneucc.org/clergy-boundary-awareness-training](https://sneucc.org/clergy-boundary-awareness-training).*

## Elise DeGooyer leaves FAN

Elise DeGooyer, executive director, who has served with the Faith Action Network of Washington (FAN) for 10 years, has resigned as of June. The FAN Board has set in place a plan for leadership transition.

*For information, visit [fanwa.org](https://fanwa.org).*

## WRYE set in June

"Love > Fear" is the theme for the once-in-four years Western Regional Youth Event (WRYE) June 23 to 27 at California State University in Long Beach, Calif.

The event is for sixth to 12th graders from UCC churches in 13 western states from Hawaii to Colorado and Washington to New Mexico. Youth gather for music, inspirational speakers, direct service opportunities, workshops, games and fun, including a day at Disneyland.

Because of the pandemic, this is the first gathering in six years, meaning a whole generation of middle and high school students missed it.

It's an opportunity to experience something bigger than one's own local faith community, joining with youth groups from across the country.

The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, the first woman of African descent to serve as general minister and president of the UCC, will be a keynote speaker, along with Rebekah Bruesehoff, trans activist and Marvel Superhero; the Rev. Shari Prestemon, acting associate general minister and co-executive of Global Ministries; the Rev. Dr. David Vásquez-levy, president of Pacific School of Religion; the Rev. Rae Chen Huang, senior organizer with Housing Now CA; Tyralucia and Music Mayhem, singer, songwriter and musician; the Rev. Steve Jerbi, national director of Organizing for Mission Network and minister of Christian Formation, Love and Justice; Pickle, drag laureate of West Hollywood.

*For information and to register, visit [wryeucc.org](https://wryeucc.org).*

## Annual Meeting continued...

**Continued from page 1**

2) Calls upon PNC-UCC delegates, churches and partners to oppose laws and initiatives in Washington, Idaho, Alaska and the U.S. that support regressive tax policy benefitting the rich and powerful while failing to alleviate oppression of the economically challenged. It specifically opposes Washington's Initiative 2109 on the November ballot and Washington's Initiative 2111 adopted March 24 by the State Legislature limiting a graduated income tax.

There is a closing worship and communion on Sunday at Plymouth Church.

*For information on the agenda, program, registration and hotels, visit <https://pnucc.org/new-page-1>.*

Conference  
News  
Briefs



# Interfaith efforts address racism, justice issues

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Dane earned a bachelor's degree in environmental studies and public relations at Gonzaga University in 2013, cooked four months for chimpanzee researchers in Zambia before serving a year with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in Hillsboro, Ore., doing stream restoration with students.

After earning a certificate in permaculture design at Kansas University in Lawrence, he moved to Bend to start a sustainable farm, but in 2015 became director of the Bend Youth Collective, the ecumenical youth group for LGBTQIA+ youth.

**Feeling called** to ministry, he moved to Vermont, taking online classes at Iliff Theological School in Denver, joining Thepford Hill UCC Church and continuing his online studies at Luther Seminary.

Dane moved to Wenatchee to finish his seminary requirements as a part-time intern at Lake Chelan Lutheran and Grace Lutheran in Wenatchee.

After the internships, he invited Jess, a candidate for ordination in the ELCA, to partner with him in ministry at Sunnyslope and in the community.

**Jess grew up** Roman Catholic in Billings, Mont., and earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy and international peace studies in 2006 at Notre Dame, in Indiana and a master of divinity at Notre Dame Seminary in 2011. After a year of service in Chicago with MercyWorks and seven years of ministry with Catholic churches in Portland she began doing ecumenical and interfaith ministry.

She and her family moved to Wenatchee two and a half years ago for her husband's job with the Conservation District.

Jess started working with FAN in the summer of 2022, when she and Dane also facilitated listening sessions through the NWIM to find interests of community and faith leaders

in justice, spirituality and anti-racism. That fit well with Jess' relationship building role with FAN to learn what justice issues faith communities were passionate about.

**Many local churches** organized food pantries but were not collaborating with one another about shared concerns around economic justice and immigrant rights.

"We heard from both BI-POC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) and white leaders who felt white people needed to be educating one another on decolonization and anti-racism to understand the COVID inequities," she said.

Dane said they also learned people interested in social justice needed a spiritual home, especially queer people.

**The listening season** led to creation of Cultivating Justice in 2022, a community of contemplation and action focused on the intersection of anti-racism, decolonization and the teachings of Jesus. Community encouragement continued with the emergence of the Interfaith Justice Coalition, in the summer of 2023. Many from Sunnyslope and the NWIM are co-leaders of the coalition and helped organize the decolonizing training.

Cultivating Justice held a "Decolonizing for Transformation" training on March 2 with Sarah Augustine, an indigenous author and trainer from Yakima, and the executive director of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery.

**The one-day training** drew 75 people to Sunnyslope. It was supported with \$4,000 seed money from the PNC-UCC Anti-Racism Fund as well as funds from the NWIM Synod, FAN and the North Central Washington Equity Alliance.

Dane and Jess co-lead the Cultivating Justice with a team of leaders from Sunnyslope.

"We are also holding gatherings in Wenatchee calling for



About 75 gathered for 'Decolonizing for Transformation.'

freedom for Palestinians and doing marches for Palestine," said Dane, adding that they are still in the process of considering next steps out of the decolonizing training.

**"With the Interfaith** Justice Coalition we also focus on narratives of Christian nationalism in the Wenatchee Valley. We work with the Cascade Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on that," he said. "We need to create a louder counter narrative to get people of faith and conscience together in the coalition.

Jess and Dane, who are on the steering committee for the Interfaith Justice Coalition, are also urging support for the Indigenous Roots and Reparations Foundation in Wenatchee.

**Sunnyslope has had** a commitment to food security and immigrant rights for many years and continues to serve as the fiscal sponsor for Wenatchee for Immigrant Justice. Newer ministries like Cultivating Justice and the Interfaith Justice Coalition have brought new life to Sunnyslope Church.

It has grown from 25 to 30 attending Sundays to 40 to 60.

The sanctuary is being reconfigured to move from a hierarchical style to a more intimate, egalitarian style inspired by theologian Rosemary Radford Ruether's *Woman Church*.

**"We are building trust** by reconfiguring the sanctuary. Rather than sitting in facing

forward with an aisle to the altar and the preacher on a raised platform at the front 35 feet away, we want to meet more in the round. So we turned the pews on each side of the aisle to face each other," Dane said.

"Now everyone is on the same level with the speaker, who is just 15 feet away. No one is elevated. We have also improved our ability to hear each other sing," he said.

"Reorienting the sanctuary creates more of a community feel where congregants can see one another during service," he said.

**Eventually they want** to replace the pews with padded church chairs.

Sunnyslope Church of the Brethren was founded in 1903 and joined with the United Church of Christ in the 1980s, after working together in an ecumenical regional ministry of the UCC, Brethren and Disciples of Christ beginning in the 1970s.

**Dane said the church** was then known as "hippies on the hill." Now it is the a progressive church and the only openly queer ministry in the valley, as LGBTQIA+ inclusive. It is a mixed congregation, not just LGBTQIA+.

**For information, call 541-977-3591 or email rev.dane.breslin@gmail.com or ingman@fanwa.org.**

**More on Sunnyslope page 9**

# Phil Hodson guides PNC through transition time

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strengthened my conviction that the gospel is for everyone and that the gospel is not just words we hear or say, but words we must embody with our very lives and the whole of our being every single day because nothing is impossible with the help of God.

My paternal grandfather was a United Methodist pastor.

When I was in seminary he told me, “Son, when you go into a church do the following: Set goals for your ministry. When you’ve achieved those goals ask God for new goals. If no new goals are discerned, it’s time to move on to the next task God has for you.”

Those words came back to me in the fall of 2020, as I came to see that we had accomplished what we were called to do in Wichita and I asked for new direction.

That direction came through my conference minister, who advised that it was time for me to consider the work of conference ministry, where I could engage my passions and administrative mind to be part of blessing others in the ways that I’ve found blessing in my own ministry.

That led to my time as conference minister in the South Central Conference of the UCC (Texas and Louisiana).

We sold our home in Kansas, packed our family into a 300-square-foot travel trailer, and set out for adventures on the Gulf Coast as we learned about this new community of faith.

In our time there, the conference became open & affirming, launched two church plants and grew numerically. We balanced a budget that had experi-



**Phil and Joelle Hodson with Xander, Xane, Xackary and Xavier.**

Photo courtesy of Phil Hodson

enced a 20-year deficit and we let go of long-held property that was cherished.

There was joy and pain in this movement toward new life, and I am thankful for it. I’m thankful for the lives changed, for the ministries invigorated, for the churches that experienced resurrection because nothing is impossible with the help of God.

In every season of our ministry, we should be learning. Opening our minds and hearts to new revelation. Yes, I’m an evangelical liberal Christian which is why I speak and write this way and likely also why my sermons average 40 minutes.

I’m most thankful for what I’ve learned about myself in this most recent season: That I am called to interim ministry. To walk alongside a body for a season and do the hard work that no settled pastor should have to endure.

A settled pastor should

come into a healthy organization that knows who God is calling them to be and is prepared to receive a partner in ministry in that grand undertaking.

An interim sets achievable goals, asks questions and moves a body through a process of transition that is tumultuous, sometimes painful and is the process by which our sacred story continues through every new generation to move once again from death to new life.

Which has led me to you in this moment.

It is my fervent hope that, during this season together, we will work to set goals for who the Pacific Northwest Conference is called to become, with God’s help.

That we will grieve our losses and celebrate the great things God is doing in our midst.

That we will reimagine ministry in this unique context—the least churchd in the

nation—to offer a voice in the wilderness that is unendingly hopeful, radically inclusive and unapologetically counter in the pews to the culture we see in the news.

All of this so that we can come to a place of celebration together and call that next conference minister who will walk alongside you as partner in ministry for the full living of these important decisions. Because nothing is impossible with the help of God.

In this season we have together, I will be inviting the Conference Board of Directors to consider the following questions, which I also invite you to consider in your own context:

What is our purpose? What is our plan? So that? ... What is the outcome we endeavor to seek that we can celebrate together? What role will each participant play in shaping this new reality?

Which takes me back to the beginning.

Every number has a name. Every name has a story. Every story is worthy of celebration.

Now you know a bit of my story. I want to know yours. You can connect with me by making an appointment via Zoom or phone through my [Calendly](#) page.

I invite pastors, laity, congregations, search committees, leadership teams, all of you, to engage me as resource, coach, cheerleader and conversation partner. We won’t agree on everything, which is totally cool.

Take what blesses you and leave the rest. Because I believe our best days, with God’s help, lie ahead.

**Blessings - Phil Hodson**



## National leader speaks, preaches at Annual Meeting

The preacher and keynote speaker for the PNCUCC Annual Meeting Friday to Sunday, April 25 to 28, at Plymouth UCC in Seattle will be the Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, the first woman of African descent to be elected as the General Minister and President/CEO of the United Church of Christ (UCC).

She was elected to a four-year term to that role by the UCC General Synod in July 2023 and installed in October.

Previously, Karen Georgia served in the national UCC setting for 14 years, two years as minister for racial justice, eight years as minister for ecumenical and interfaith relations and four years beginning in 2019 as the associate general minister for Wider Church Ministries and co-executive for Global Ministries.

Her passion for justice and equity led her to the UCC global work to reduce the marginalization African descendant peoples and other communities experience. She has also been active in the WCC's Thursdays in Black movement challenging violence against women.

**Before joining** the national staff, Karen Georgia served as the Florida UCC Conference's first woman pastor of African descent when she served the new, 15-member New Hope UCC in DeLand, Fla.

She also served on the conference staff as the minister for disaster response and recovery, and previously worked in leadership positions with nonprofits for more than 10 years.

**Born in Kingston, Jamaica**, she immigrated to the New York as a teenager and earned a bachelor's degree from Brooklyn College, followed by a master's in public administration from North Carolina Central University in Durham, N.C., and a master of divinity from Union Theological Seminary



The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson Photo courtesy of the UCC

in New York. In addition, she studied public policy at Duke University.

**Karen Georgia earned** a doctorate in ministry at Seattle University and was also awarded an honorary doctorate from Heidelberg University.

Being a Black woman, an African descendant, Jamaican immigrant, poet and public theologian are central identities in Karen Georgia's life, work and ministry, reports ucc.org.

**The United Church of Christ**, a church in the united and uniting church family, was created in 1957 as a union between the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational and Christian churches with roots in German Lutheranism, German and Swiss Reformed traditions, Anabaptist Christian Church traditions and English Congregationalism, descended from Puritans and Separatists in England and New England.

The 2023 General Synod recognized a fifth stream of

its roots in the Afro-Christian Convention.

Since its beginning, the UCC has been a diverse communion with congregations of many racial and ethnic origins—African American, Hispanic, American Indian, Asian American, Pacific Islander and more.

**From its diversity** and commitment to being a united and uniting church, the UCC engages varied ecclesial and liturgical perspectives of its members. It is committed to becoming more intentionally multi-racial and multicultural, open and affirming to gifts of gay and lesbian persons as members and ordained ministers, accessible to all people, and dedicated to pursuing ecumenical relationships, and peace and justice in the church and the world, according to ucc.org.

Karen Georgia said the most difficult part of her work is not the long days and hard work but being a Black woman and having her skin color and

gender trigger questions about her expertise and authority.

"The faith component allows me to get up every morning and step back into these places of trauma," Karen Georgia said. "The color of my skin triggers the thought that this person doesn't know anything."

**"The church has work** to do—the work of confession and owning where we have gotten things wrong," she said.

A writer and poet, her works are published in books, journals and online publications. Her poetry book, *Drums in Our Veins*, published in 2020, focuses on the injustices facing people of African descent, and the fight and desire for racial justice globally.

According to a ucc.org report on Karen Georgia after she was nominated as general minister and president of the UCC in March, her leadership has created opportunities for dialogue and safe space for engaging expressions of religious multiplicity.

Her doctoral dissertation looked at ways African Caribbean people continue to practice African derived religious and spiritual expressions along with other religions and with Christianity.

**Highlighting the UCC's** spiritual diversity, Karen Georgia said, "I see the UCC as a place that will continue to welcome those who come. As a community, we are theologically diverse and will continue to be so. We hold the tensions of beliefs, theologies, race, gender identification and more."

Karen Georgia supports the UCC ethos of welcoming people, creating space for people to explore their spirituality, including those on the fringe of what what is considered mainstream or mainline Christianity.

**For information, call 216-736-2156, email copeland@ucc.org or visit ucc.org.**

*Will visit UCC and Disciples churches in region*

## Partners from Colombia visit Annual Meeting

Two peace and justice Global Mission Partners from Colombia will participate in the 2024 spring Pacific Northwest Conference United Church of Christ Annual Meeting and Northern Lights Regions Disciples of Christ Regional Meeting in April.

The UCC Annual Meeting will be held from Friday to Sunday, April 28 to 30, in Seattle and the Disciples of Christ Northern Lights Regional Assembly is Friday to Sunday, May 3 to 5, in Wenatchee.

Pablo Moreno and Xiomara Cintron-Garcia will visit in the Pacific Northwest representing Justapaz and CEDECOL, two peace, justice and human rights organizations in Colombia.

**They will report** on their efforts in Colombia to establish peace, justice and human rights and revitalize the Peace Accords process adopted by a vote in 2016, said Ed Evans of the joint Global Ministries Committee UCC PNW Conference and Disciples' Northern Lights Region, which is coordinating their visit.

Implementing the Accords languished under former President Iván Duque. Since Gustavo Petro was elected in 2022, peace groups in Colombia have hope about revitalizing the Accords.

"The region and conference voted to establish partnerships with Justapaz and CEDECOL to accompany them on their journey as they serve as important voices of faith in Colombia's peace movement," said Ed.

**Xiomara and her husband**, Alex Maldonado, were appointed in 2021 by the UCC/Disciples Global Ministries to serve as mission co-workers in Colombia. They live in Bogota.

Xiomara's work with Justapaz is in the area of "Mujer y Paz" (Women and Peace) where she helps women from churches, communities and socio-ecclesial organizations develop peacemaking processes.



**Xiomara Cintron-Garcia**

Along with the women, *Mujer y Paz* helps develop initiatives that guarantee their participation in different social and political scenarios in the framework of the UN 1325 Resolution, from a peace building perspective, Ed said.

**She supports women's** political advocacy on rural territories with a gender perspective in the 2016 Peace Accord. She promotes and witnesses dialogues for reconciliation between women victims of the armed conflict. The area acts on making visible the participation and leadership of women in instances of peace building and human rights in the territories.

More about her work in Colombia is on YouTube: Alex and Xiomara in Colombia.

**Pablo, a professor** at the Universidad Bautista de Cali, Colombia for 30 years, has promoted peace since 2006 as a teacher of the Biblical School of Training for Peace.

In 2009, he was elected director of the Peace Commission of the Evangelical Council of Colombia, which includes 70 percent of Protestant churches and denominations in Colombia.

As director of the Commission, Pablo has promoted programs related to churches as sanctuaries of peace, a support network for women victims of the conflict, the School



**Pablo Moreno**

of Bible training for peace and a program of investigation and advocacy for the victims of the conflict in Colombia.

**"During the 2016 peace** negotiations with the government and the FARC, we helped the agreement to include recognition of church victims and allow for churches and the inter-religious sector to participate in future conversations with other armed groups," Pablo said.

"Today we join in the National Dialogue Table with the ELN," he said. "We seek to support peace-building efforts with other social organizations whose goal is reconciliation in our country. So we are active in non-governmental tables and with the Catholic Church."

**The Global Ministries** Committee invites churches of the conference and region to offer visits and tours.

Pablo and Xiomara will travel together or separately to maximize chances for regional churches to learn what is happening in Colombia, as well as to share what supports justice and peace in their areas.

**Pablo and Xiomara will** arrive in Seattle on April 22 and will be in the Western Washington area from Tuesday, April 22, Wednesday, April 23, and Thursday, April 24. They will be at the PNC-UCC Annual Meeting at Plymouth UCC Se-

attle April 26 to 28.

During that time, the committee seeks hosts, transportation and Spanish translators.

They will travel to Central/Eastern Washington Monday, April 29, Tuesday, April 30, and Wednesday, May 1 before the Northern Lights Regional Assembly May 3 to 5 in Wenatchee.

Churches interested should invite them early with the Global Ministries Logistics Team coordinator Ruth Brandon at contact info below.

Ed said the partnership enables a presence in Colombian villages that gives people hope. He offered statistics and background from Amnesty International and the Latin American Working Group.

In 2006, U.S. assistance to Colombia was about \$728 million, nearly 80 percent of which was military and police assistance. For many years, at least 25,000 people were forcibly "disappeared" in Colombia and more than 5.7 million people internally displaced.

In addition, more than 27,000 people were kidnapped, mainly by guerrillas who kidnapped 25,482. Paramilitary groups kidnapped 2,541. More than 11,700 were killed in 1,982 massacres largely perpetrated by paramilitary groups.

More than 256,000 people were newly displaced in 2012. More than 16,800 people were displaced in mass displacements in 2013. Of those, 73 percent were Afro-Colombian or indigenous.

That year, 359 people wounded or killed by landmines; 169 were registered as forcibly disappeared and of those, 10 were dead, 36 were alive and 123 remain missing; 26 union members and 78 human rights defenders were assassinated.

**For information, contact Ruth at 425-220-2476 or email [arembe@mac.com](mailto:arembe@mac.com).**



Registration is now open at [n-sid-sen.org](http://n-sid-sen.org)

## ***N-Sid-Sen camps scheduled for spring, summer***

N-Sid-Sen Camp and Retreat Center has several special offerings to the PNC-UCC this spring and through the summer.

Once again there will be a free clergy retreat for all active clergy serving on the east side of the conference, Monday April 1 to Wednesday, April 3. Registration is on the link on [n-sid-sen.org](http://n-sid-sen.org). This is a time of rest and renewal along the shores of Lake Coeur d'Alene, enjoying great food offered by Chelsea's Gypsy Kitchen, said Pam Peterson, managing director.

N-Sid-Sen is now taking reservations for families and groups to enjoy time away with private retreats before the busy summer season begins.

Families and groups can rent lodges, cabins or bring campers. "There are plenty of beautiful sunsets and starry nights to enjoy with a campfire and hot cocoa," said Pam Peterson, designated managing director at N-Sid-Sen.

After May 1, N-Sid-Sen will introduce its new food service provider, Upper Crust. Leave the cooking to us!

Work Action Camp Week-ends have been scheduled for May 2 to 5 and June 13 to 16. Reservations for lodging and meals can be made at the link on the website.

"The work tasks that we will focus on include brush clearing, wood splitting and stacking, painting the interior of the cabins, and power washing all exterior wooden surfaces," said Pam, inviting people to come ready to join in the fun with nightly campfires and morning watch.

Summer Camp registration is open at the registration link on the website.

The 2024 summer camp theme, "Linked by Love," offers campers a great experience at their home away from home



**Spring time 2024 view of low water at the N-Sid-Sen cove.**

Photo courtesy of Pam Peterson

at N-Sid-Sen, Pam said.

Those interested in volunteering for any summer camp session, may contact the camp directly at [director@n-sid-sen.org](mailto:director@n-sid-sen.org).

N-Sid-Sen needs at least two lifeguards in residence for its four weeks of summer camps from July 14 to Aug. 10. Lifeguards need an open water lifeguard certification.

Certified lifeguards interested in one of the positions need to contact Managing Director Pam Peterson.

Those who stop by the N-Sid-Sen table at the PNC-UCC Annual Meeting may purchase a t-shirt or sweatshirt with the "Transforming Faith" logo.

"As we continue to steward the monarch population at N-Sid-Sen by protecting the growth of milkweed beds, the purchase of a "Transforming Faith" t-shirt or sweatshirt will help support the nature connections at N-Sid-Sen," said Pam.

Upcoming local church Retreats in September 2024 are: 1) Pullman / Richland UCC churches; 2) Walla Walla UCC Church and 3) Westminister / Colville / Chewelah UCC churches.

N-Sid-Sen is a camp and retreat center of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC). The UCC is a mainline protestant denomination, which promotes the respect and acceptance of all God's people – no matter their country of origin, race, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, or religious background.

The name comes from the indigenous Coeur d'Alene people. It means "Point of Inspiration."

Established in 1935, N-Sid-Sen has served thousands of children, youth and adults through summer camp and year-round retreat experiences. Nestled along the shores of Lake Coeur d'Alene among nearly 300 acres of woodlands, creeks and meadows, our facilities provide unique opportunities for exploration, growth, and renewal to groups of 16 to 150 participants. Our guests and campers come from a wide variety of backgrounds, faith traditions and community groups.

**For information, email [director@n-sid-sen.org](mailto:director@n-sid-sen.org).**

### **2024 N-Sid-Sen camp schedule is:**

**Eastside Clergy Retreat**  
April 1 to 2  
Mon Dinner to Wed Breakfast

**Work Camp**  
May 2 to 5

**Women's Retreat**  
May 17 to 19 - Fri to Sun  
16 and older

**Work Camp**  
June 13 to 17

**Emerging Young Adults Camp**  
June 14 to 17 - Mon to Fri  
Ages 19 to 35

**You and Me Camp**  
June 21 to 24 - Sun to Wed  
Entering grades 1 to 4 with adult

**Kids Camp**  
June 24 to 27 - Wed to Sun  
Entering grades 2 to 4

**Intermediate Camp**  
July 14 to 20 - Sun to Sat  
Entering grades 5 to 6

**Junior High Camp**  
July 14 to 20 - Sun to Sat  
Entering grades 7 to 8

**Senior High Camp**  
July 21 to 27 - Sun to Sat  
Entering grades 10 to 13

**Family Camp**  
July 28 to Aug 3 - Sun to Sat

**Camp Together**  
Aug 4 to 10 - Sun to Sat

**For information,**

**call**  
**208-689-3489**

**email**  
**[director@n-sid-sen.org](mailto:director@n-sid-sen.org)**

**register**  
**at [n-sid-sen.org](http://n-sid-sen.org)**



## N-Sid-Sen hires property and events manager

N-Sid-Sen has hired Chelsea Nesbit as property and events manager. She joined the staff last fall as caterer and after winter in the kitchen she has now become full-time staff, said Pam Peterson, managing director.

Chelsea has skills in property management, bookkeeping, community development and culinary arts. Originally from Arizona, she gained experience in property management in Hawaii, California and Arizona.

Recently, she was the community development specialist



**Chelsea Nesbit joins N-Sid-Sen staff.** Photo by Chelsea Nesbit

for the City of Coeur d'Alene, managing a HUD grant and projects for low to moderate income people through programs such as emergency minor home repairs and economic development opportunities.

In March 2020, Chelsea moved to Coeur d'Alene from Phoenix, where she founded and managed McDowell Market, a collaborative downtown retail space. She also founded the Miracle Mile Merchants Association to create a thriving business district.

"As the owner of Chelsea's

Gypsy Kitchen, a catering and food prep company based in Coeur d'Alene, I seek to bring creativity, dedication and a love for culinary arts to every dish I create," said Chelsea.

She has two daughters and two grandsons.

"Family is at the heart of everything I do," said Chelsea, who finds enjoys nature and adventure. "Whether its hiking scenic trails, camping under the stars or taking in the beauty of the natural world, I embrace every opportunity to connect with the environment."

## Garden project helps Sunnyslope grow together

**Naomi Ellingford**, the Sunnyslope Brethren/UCC church office assistant since January, and her wife Kayla Ellingford are responsible for the garden project.

Naomi started attending the church in January 2023. She grew up in Chelan involved in service activities in the school and community.

She and Kayla have a garden they tend at home.

**A five-year-old** church youth brought in drawings of a community garden he had been making and dreaming up for the community.

Dane Breslin, the pastor, took him seriously, shared the drawings and asked people to sign up for what they would grow.

"We didn't have space for a cherry tree, but the children were excited as they set up raised bed boxes and people planned what they would grow," Naomi said.

"**We wanted to support** his efforts, so we got a team together to start building the church garden," she said. "The children have been heavily involved every step of the way from planning to harvesting and



**Sunnyslope Brethren/UCC garden brings all ages together for building garden beds, tending new plants and harvesting the vegetables.**

Photos courtesy of Sunnyslope Brethren/UCC

preparing food from the garden.

"It has been a wonderful way to bring our growing church community together and to encourage multigenerational relationships to form and flourish," Naomi said.

**The church started it** in spring of 2023, so has only had one growing season so far.

It allows for multi-generational involvement of three-year olds to 90-year olds digging, planting and harvesting side-by-side.

"We make salads and share them at fellowship time after services," said Naomi.

"**I feel gardening is spiritual.** We come from the dirt and return to the dirt. Putting our hands in the soil is unifying," she observed.

"It's also an opportunity to understand climate in terms of what vegetables to grow and use waters. We grow a cover crop after the season to draw carbon into the soil," Naomi explained.

"It's a cool way to build community relationships," she said.

**For information, call 509-663-5745 or email [office@sunnyslopechurch.org](mailto:office@sunnyslopechurch.org).**



# Churches work together to pass climate legislation

A blob of plastic trash appeared in the narthex of Seattle's University Congregational UCC on Sunday, Jan. 21.

UCUCC's Sacred Earth Matters (SEM) group put it there two weeks after the start of the 2024 legislative session to build support for one of SEM's legislative priorities.

"The blob did exactly that," said Lon Dickinson of SEM.

People were asked before the 2024 session to urge their legislators to make recycling plastic a priority. There was a letter to the editor in the Seattle Times, too.

"**The blob provoked** discussion on plastic being a by-product of oil and the failure of producers to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and re-use plastic they produce," he said.

People took handouts asking them to call and leave a message at the legislative hotline, 800-562-6000, and urge their legislators to support House Bill 2049, the Washington Recycling and Packaging Act.

HB 2049 would have made manufacturers responsible for the end-of-life management of plastic and other packaging via an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program. They would have to 1) incrementally increase the quantity of plastic re-used in making new plastic and 2) financially support a producer organization to provide free, universal recycling services throughout Washington.

**Although the bill failed**, ongoing education is needed to keep people engaged, said Lon.

"It was the fifth year SEM worked to get EPR established. This year's bill had support from the Environmental Priorities Coalition," Lon said, but it had strong opposition and didn't get a floor vote.

"House leaders couldn't afford the time needed to debate to defeat floor amendments," Lon said.



**Plastic blob draws attention at coffee hour.** Photo courtesy of UCUCC

"SEM typically champions bills that protect God's creation or address global warming. That includes treaty rights of sovereign tribal nations, saving salmon, protecting vulnerable populations and mature forests. Its bills usually face up-hill battles and require strong advocacy efforts. Only four of its 12 priority bills were approved, and the margins of approval were both narrow and partisan.

**Winning bills dealt with** Zero Emission School Buses (HB 1368), Transitioning Puget Sound Energy Off Natural Gas (HB 1589), Linkage of WA Carbon Market with the California-Quebec Market (SB 6058), and Food Waste & Solid Waste Management (HB 2301).

The list of people who receive SEM's legislative alerts includes more than 150 names of committed people. Each weekly email alert in the legislative session provides basic information on a bill and identifies if support is needed for a committee or floor vote. Because they are routinely shared with family, neighbors and co-workers, SEM has no idea how many people read the alerts.

"**Feedback is invariably** on how easy they make it for people to be advocates," he said.

Short announcements in UCUCC's weekly email blast urge other people to call the ho-

line to support that week's bill.

SEM also has a contact person at three other churches and synagogues in Seattle and nine churches elsewhere in Washington. These people forward alerts to their congregants.

**The legislators in at least** 22 legislative districts are being urged to support a specific SEM priority bill each week. That's 45 percent of Washington's legislators, said Lon.

"Unfortunately, it's not enough to achieve what is needed to save our environment for future generations," he said. "Too many climate-related bills died this session. The work needs help from all PNCUCC churches. UCC churches statewide should collaboratively cajole and work with legislators to help sustain our planet.

"**Bills supporting** the production/use of green hydrogen, geothermal power and nuclear fusion have bipartisan support, but otherwise, there is an unfathomable gulf," he said. "More legislators must be persuaded to support more bills to slow global warming. That includes protecting our carbon-storing forests and agricultural lands and capturing methane cattle emit. Surely, we can find ways to generate and transmit zero emission energy."

SEM is ready to work with people at more churches.

"Lobbyists say six to 10 calls or messages can determine how a legislator votes. So, increasing the number of advocates in districts would help. Adding churches in more districts would be strategic in dealing with the environmental catastrophe we're confronting," Lon said.

"**Advocacy doesn't end** when the legislature adjourns," he said.

In mid-2024, SEM will provide questions people can ask legislative candidates for the Aug. 6 primary and Nov. 5 elections. It can also modify its scorecard for how legislators voted on SEM's 2024 priorities to include new legislators.

Lon believes legislators need to know when their constituents are "disappointed" by their committee or floor votes. "Why" might facilitate dialogue, and "thank you" is always appreciated.

**SEM will also provide** information on Initiative 2117, which will be on the November ballot. This initiative would nullify Washington's 2021 Climate Commitment Act and the carbon-pricing auction revenues—more than \$2 billion in 2023—which are currently funding conservation restoration projects and programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"It matters that we all speak up in loud voices on its behalf," said Lon, who has done legislative advocacy seven years since moving to Seattle in 2013.

A political science major, he worked with Washington state legislators when he was director of the Timberland Regional Library Olympia from 1985 to 1992. He also did advocacy in Minnesota, Nebraska and Georgia. He was librarian at the Jefferson Parish Library in New Orleans from 2004 to 2013.

**For information, email** [lon\\_dickerson@yahoo.com](mailto:lon_dickerson@yahoo.com) or visit [universityucc.org/connect/sem](http://universityucc.org/connect/sem).



## Pilgrim Firs has plans for a Serenity Garden

Pilgrim Firs Work Action Camp is going to be building a pagoda to display a Timeless Cycle Prayer Wheel that was given to the camp in memory of Doug Mallett, a member of University Congregational UCC in Seattle and member of the PNC-UCC Stewardship Committee. It was given by his family—his wife Brenda and sons Marc and Ross.

Mark Boyd, managing director of Pilgrim Firs Camp and Conference Center shared the story behind the sculpted prayer wheel.

**Axis of Hope** Prayer Wheels was begun by Chris Moench, an artist in Bellingham, who was troubled by the loss of life and environmental destruction that resulted June 10, 1999, when a gas pipeline ruptured and caused a fire along a creek in a Bellingham city park. Two 10-year-old boys playing in the park and an 18-year-old man died in the fire.

Chris created the sculpture to help people reflect on the event and then began sculpting prayer wheels, including the one that will be placed in the pagoda in the new Serenity Garden next to the outdoor labyrinth.

**“The Serenity Garden** is designed as a quiet reflective space for folks to gather. Currently it holds two memory trees planted in recognition of two youth who grew up going to Pilgrim Firs, Sam Martinez and Lauren Bianco. Both left this world way too early,” Mark said.

“In the Buddhist tradition, each revolution of a prayer wheel counts as an uttered prayer,” he explained, quoting Chris.

“Considering the troubling state of our planet and humanity’s ongoing search for hope—the prayer wheel provides an axis that radiates optimism,



**Sculpted prayer wheel will be placed in pagoda in Serenity Garden.**

Photo courtesy of Mark Boyd

healing, peace, wholeness, love, compassion and harmony among all things. It is an ‘Axis of Hope’ spinning counter to so many negative things,” he said.

“In the process of creating each vessel I write the words Peace, Love, Gratitude, Compassion on the inside,” Chris explained. “Aside from those four words, the vessels are empty until people fill them with their own written prayers, intentions, memories or other meaningful items.”

Mark then shared more about events at Pilgrim Firs.

**In the summer, Kids Camp** and **U-and-Me Camp** will be held the weekend of June 14 to 16.

“While most youth camps are at N-Sid-Sen, these camps are for families of small children who do not want them to go far,” Mark said. “Our hope is that they will build relationships and excitement so then will want to go together to camps at N-Sid Sen.

**“That’s the result** of the Midwinter Youth Camp at Pilgrim Firs this winter. Several youth are excited and now plan

to go to summer camp at N-Sid-Sen,” he said.

**Pilgrim Firs is keeping busy.**

There was a Sufi group there in March for a week-long silent retreat. While that is not conducive to having multiple groups at the camp, Mark plans to have several groups share the space in the coming seasons.

A new group, the Puget Sound Folk Harp group has 35 harp players signed up to come in April to plan and have workshops. During the same, a Unitarian Universalist men’s group and University Congregational youth retreat will share the space.

**“It’s more sustainable** if we have more than 20 people in one group on the site.

May 10 to 12, three groups will use Pilgrim Firs, a drum workshop, a Fox Island UCC overnight, and Suquamish will come one day.

“They will eat meals at the same time but have different colored tablecloths and napkin dispensers with the groups’ names.

Later, United Churches of

Olympia and St. Paul’s UCC, which have had a retreat weekend together, will share with another small church. They come in August and March.

**March 25 to 27**, 10 volunteers came for a weekend Work Action Camp.

“We changed the name, because not everyone needs construction skills to help. There is power washing, trail work and many other activities, including setting up the pagoda in the Serenity Garden,” Mark said.

**During the April 12 to 15** Work Action Camp, staff will hold a yard sale of things that have accumulated but Pilgrim Firs no longer uses.

“Pilgrim Firs is doing well financially,” he said.

For two weeks in December when no one was there, they painted rooms in South Lodge and upgraded lighting. They will finish the painting next December.

**For information, call 360-876-2031 or email [mark@pilgrim-firs.org](mailto:mark@pilgrim-firs.org).**

**To learn about the Axis of Hope, contact Chris Moench at [axisofhope.net](http://axisofhope.net)**

# Tri-Cities Immigrant Coalition continues efforts

Since Shalom UCC in Richland formed the Tri Cities Immigrant Coalition in 2017, the organization has established a strong reputation in the community and gained community support, said Marsha Stipe, one of the organizers.

“For the present, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids are rare,” she said, recalling the situation immigrants in the community faced.

Concerned that they would go home to an empty house, children were experiencing anxiety and crying in their classrooms.

Mothers, fathers, grandmas, grandpas, aunts and uncles were being picked up on their way to or from work, at the grocery store and at their homes by ICE.

People were put in jail for minor traffic infractions like a burned-out car taillight and then they were transferred to ICE officials.

“All of these incidents often lead to incarceration in the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma without an opportunity to make a phone call, arrange for care for their children or contact an attorney,” she said.

“Immigrants didn’t know their rights. People were just disappearing. In addition, the media were filled with disinformation about immigrants in our community. People were scared and some people were mad.”

Marsha said there was great division in the community on immigrants.

The misinformation and ICE activities lead to a phone call to Shalom United Church of Christ in Richland. The caller asked: “Was there any group dealing with these kinds of situations in the Tri-Cities area?”

Steve Ericson, then Shalom’s pastor, passed the question on to the Shalom Missions and Social Action Committee and the volunteer Tri-Cities Im-



Attorney offers free legal clinic.

Photos courtesy of TCIC



Tri-Cities Immigrant Coalition educates the community by tabling at events.

migrant Coalition (TCIC) was formed, led by Shalom UCC members.

At that time the emphasis was on getting “Know Your Rights” information out to immigrants, providing a local emergency “Help Line,” training and establishing a “Rapid Response Team” and establishing an accompaniment team.

The TCIC also created educational activities such as community forums, presentations to community service clubs and churches, tabling at community events, writing letters to the editor of the local paper, meeting with elected and appointed officials at the local and state level, and creating and sponsoring community events that brought diverse members of the community together and helped the community recognize immigrants’ needs and contributions.

“In the beginning we only had the money members contributed. We printed our handouts on our home printers and materials were donated. Fortunately, thanks to grants and individual donations, now we have a budget that allows us to meet some immigrant needs that previously weren’t being addressed,” Marsha said.

TCIC has four areas of focus: education, engagement, support and advocacy.

“In education, we continue to provide presentations and workshops on immigrants and immigration topics to service clubs, schools, churches and community groups,” she said.

TCIC also provides educational presentations to Hispanic groups, such as migrant parents, migrant school personnel, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and church groups. Volunteers do tabling at community and school events where they provide information about immigration issues, rights, laws, services and contributions by

Continued on page 13



# Group educates, engages, supports and advocates

Continued from page 12

immigrants, and they offer support programs for immigrants.

Engagement efforts include networking with local groups involved with immigration issues.

“We have sponsored or co-sponsored community forums, a community concert, a documentary film and a poet’s book signing and reading, all of which featured immigrant artists and immigrant community members.” Marsha said.

For support, TCIC provides financial assistance for DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) individuals reapplying for their DACA status.

A new priority this year is funding non-traditional scholarships for individuals who want to pursue more education or training to enter or re-enter the work force.

TCIC provides a free 30-minute consultation with an immigration attorney for immigrants in need of such services.

It also established an Emergency Immigrant Assistance Fund. In the past year and half this fund has provided one-time cash of \$200 to \$800 awards to more than 160 families who are facing a crisis.

In advocacy work, TCIC continues to advocate to local and appointed officials on behalf of the immigrant population. For the 2024 legislative session, TCIC identified—with the assistance of Faith Action Network, Columbia Legal Services, League of Women Voters and the Benton Democrats—bills and budget funding needs that would have an impact on immigrants. TCIC expressed their support for bills, including sending written testimonies to State Representatives and Senators.

TCIC members continue to write letters to the editor, sign and initiate petitions, and make phone calls to uplift the needs of immigrants and their fami-



**TCIC volunteer visits a family in their home to help them know their rights and what resources are available.**



**TCIC organizes events for leaders to share resources.**



**Tri-Cities Immigrant Coalition helps immigrant families find affordable housing.**

lies in the community.

“The need for social and economic justice for our immigrants continues to be great,” said Marsha. “The media continues to provide disinformation about immigrants. Immigration laws need reform, and immigrants continue to be denied their rights.”

So TCIC continues its educational activities. In addition, it plans to continue to provide financial assistance to immigrants in crises, to provide scholarships to DACA individuals to reapply for status, to provide immigrants in need of legal assistance free legal consultations and to provide immigrants with non-traditional scholarships to uplift them in every way.

“TCIC believes that every immigrant and refugee has inherent dignity and human rights. They should be able to live in safety, live without fear, and have access to basic necessities and opportunities,” said Marsha.

*For information, email [marshastipe@gmail.com](mailto:marshastipe@gmail.com), [ghormel@outlook.com](mailto:ghormel@outlook.com) or [ldrathbone@outlook.com](mailto:ldrathbone@outlook.com).*

