



 **LUKE 9:12-17**

BLESSED AND BROKEN

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**



Superintendency Reports
PRE-CONFERENCE HANDBOOK

K. REPORTS OF DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS
CREST TO COAST MISSIONAL DISTRICT

As I reflect on the 2024-2025 appointment year and the ministry within the Crest to Coast Missional District and continue to walk the M.I.L.E. together, the following themes emerged: Cultivation, Conflict, Connection, and Collaboration.

Cultivation

Throughout the district, local churches have been cultivating new leadership within their churches and encouraging new ministries along in their development, from a sprouting children’s ministry at First UMC of Olympia to a new Family Promise of Pierce County championed by Spanaway UMC. The C2C District Leadership Team has been meeting to form a sense of team and to learn how to support the current and future superintendents. New laity has emerged to take the Basic Course for Lay Servant Ministries that *Rev. Sheila Miranda* has worked tirelessly on. And Crest to Coast churches consulted with Marcia McFee on the new workshop workshops offered for smaller congregations and lay led congregations.



Conflict

While it might be seen as a theme to leave out of a report, it can be helpful to know that this has been a year of significant conflict within some congregations. Making it known, even if in general, helps to dispel the ideas that we cannot talk about conflict, that conflict is inherently bad, and that we are all alone. Please know that there are churches in pain due to some sort of internal conflict. I encourage you to pray for them.

Connection

Connection is emerging all around us. The pastoral leaders gathered this spring to connect and ground ourselves in community and God’s love for us all. Lay-led churches joined with others around the conference for a special gathering, the first of its kind, for support, community, and learning. The Ocean Park Camp and Retreat Center held an amazing working retreat to create a new five-year organization and ministry plan.

Collaboration, Collaboration, Collaboration

This is an annual theme that I’ve been encouraging, and it is taking off! The Clark County churches had their second Confirmation program with a joint confirmation service where *Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth* preached. They are now looking to hire a County-wide youth director. The Puyallup Area Sub-district churches have done their first joint confirmation program and are hopeful about what ministry collaborations might emerge. The lay leaders of the South Sound Co-operative churches organized their event together, Potluck for Democracy, which was a resounding success. The Twin Harbors Subdistrict visioning

team recently finished their work and gave their report for a vision for the future to the nine churches in the sub-district. The Three Rivers Circuit has continued its collaborative conversations about ministry partners now and in the future. There are so many other stories of collaboration with ecumenical and community partners. Praise be to God!

Transitional Blessings

Finally, we ask for special transitional blessings for Crest to Coast churches and pastoral leaders. Rochester United Methodist Church becomes a lay-led congregation in July.

We send off *Dione Corsilles* into transitional leave and welcome *Eilidh Lowery* to the Crest to Coast District. We pray for Allison Mattocks and Vangie Rand, who are changing appointments within the district. May God surround the churches and pastoral leaders moving through a time of transition.

Beloved servants in the Crest to Coast District, it continues to be an honor to serve alongside you as we seek to walk a M.I.L.E. for the common good. May the Risen Christ boldly lead us into a new year full of opportunities to deepen our love of God and express our love for our neighbor through equity, justice, and peace.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Kathleen Weber, Crest to Coast District Superintendent

INLAND AND SEVEN RIVERS MISSIONAL DISTRICTS

The Work We Do Together

As a fourth year is completed, the boundaries delineated for the Seven Rivers and Inlands Districts have become increasingly permeable. Our ministry and work continue with a team approach that allows us to have greater support for our districts and each other within the team.

The team consists of Cohort Pastors who work more closely with churches, *Sheila Miranda*, the Connectional Minister for our districts, and District Lay Leaders Billie Fitzsimmons and John Townsend. *Daniel* and *Sheila* meet regularly with administrative assistant Laura Velonza, who rounds off our team by keeping us informed and answering many of the churches' questions.

This team engages, supports, and allows us to carry out our districts' missional work and makes the tasks we do together work smoothly. Several of our Cohorts also have lay leaders who help us engage in the work of ministry from different points of view. Working with such generous and gifted colleagues and friends continues to be a great pleasure. It is also important to note that this team approach that has supported us so well these past four years will also prepare us for the changes that will come in the superintendency.



We Are Working at Being Connectional

Bishop Cedrick reminds us that when he introduced the M.I.L.E., it was not intended to be a one-year process. The M.I.L.E. directs us toward the goals we need to be curious about, consider, and implement. Because this is not a step-by-step process, many congregations still discern what this means for each of them. The beauty of this process is that it gives us a common language even as we discern the appropriate, often different, needs of our various contexts. Here is a quick reminder of our M.I.L.E..

- **M - Ministry that Matters:** How do churches and ministry settings go outside themselves to turn from the mirror towards looking out the window to become a blessing to their communities?
- **I - Itineration and location:** We must be aware of and adjust to how leadership and itinerancy, within the clergy and lay persons, are changing in our churches because of the present-day needs in our ministries.
- **L - Lay Ministry Enhancement:** Deepening our awareness of the clergy-laity partnerships. Empowered lay leadership was our historical strength and will be critical for our future.
- **E - Eliminating Racism:** Engaging churches, ministries, and culture in meaningful conversation and evaluation of practices that have led to institutional racism, inequity, and societal harm.

We Are Busier

Many of us are busy and likely tired, but not necessarily from pandemic stress or increasing hours of ministry needs as the primary culprits. I often hear tiredness rooted in our inability to understand and respond to cultural change, religious needs, and even the changes and expectations within our local churches and denominations. And yet, I also see energy, hope, curiosity, and experimentation in our congregations.

The Work Is Never Done

The world continues to change, and many of you have been wrestling with what that means for the local church. I continue to ask many of the same questions: What is God calling us to do now? What are we uniquely gifted at doing? To do what we are called to do, what do we need to stop doing? What are we doing that is not essential?

Thank You

I acknowledge the wisdom of the people around me, ask questions, and support me with information and insight when I don't know or understand. Thanks to my partners on the east side, *Sheila Miranda*, who serves as the Connectional Minister for our two districts; Laura Velonza, our Administrative Assistant; the Cohort Pastors, Cohort Lay Leaders, District Lay Leaders, and all who serve with them. I greatly appreciate my DS colleagues each year and how we work separately and together.

My Hope

Be curious! Experiment. In conversation with God, try something you believe may bring hope, healing, and growth. Fail! Try something different, and if you fail, try another thing. Our greatest enemy is doing the things we have done things that served us well in the past but are not helpful to our future.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Daniel Miranda, Seven Rivers and Inland District Superintendent

PUGET SOUND MISSIONAL DISTRICT

My heart is filled with so much joy and gratitude as I reflect on our journey together as siblings and partners in ministry for the past seven years. I am so grateful for the many ways you have welcomed me as a fellow traveler in this journey of faith.

This report highlights the importance of partnerships and community engagement in fulfilling our shared calling. As your DS, I have witnessed how the Spirit of God has moved in amazing ways through your connections with others. Through your relationships with each other and with many others, I have seen God’s love at work in powerful and tangible ways. For this, I am so grateful to you all.

Let me share a few examples of how I have experienced and witnessed these at work, particularly in the past year.

1) Local Churches Partnering with Local Organizations

I am pleased to report that many of our local churches have now actively pursued partnerships with local organizations to address the diverse needs in their local communities. Through these partnerships, our churches have extended our reach and serve those hurting, marginalized, or in need. A few examples include:

Food and Clothing Drives, as well as hosting Community

Dinners: Some of our local churches have been partnering with other local non-profit organizations (mostly with their local food banks) to address food insecurity in their communities. I have also heard many stories about how these ministries have not only met the tangible needs of our more vulnerable siblings but have also opened doors for meaningful conversations about faith and hope.

After-School Programs: Some have worked tirelessly with local schools to implement mentoring and/or other after-school programs to guide many young people in their spiritual, emotional, and academic growth. Through your dedication to this work, lives are transformed as these young people gain practical support and encouragement in this stage where they need it most.

Ministries with the Unhoused: Again, through our pastors’ and churches’ willingness to partner with other organizations, many of our local churches now play a key role in providing shelter, meals, and counseling to our siblings and friends in many communities experiencing homelessness. I also know that there are still some congregations in our district who are now exploring ways to do this work with the resources that they have. If you are one of these churches, please know you don’t need to do this alone. Find a partner. Reach out to those who have done it before and learn from them. These partnerships have proven life-giving for those we serve and the many volunteers who share in the ministry.

I appreciate your commitment to being the hands and feet of Christ in the community, demonstrating the love of God in these practical ways.



2) Cultivating Connections with Ecumenical Partners

In addition to local organizations, some churches have also focused on investing in our work with Ecumenical partners. Many have begun exploring ways to build relationships and work towards sharing ministries with other faith communities in their area. I was told stories of joint worship services with other congregations and how these services have allowed our people to celebrate our common faith while learning from the diverse expressions of worship and fellowship that other congregations bring.

This section highlights three of our congregations that have connected more deeply with some of our ecumenical partners this past year.

ELM in Sedro Woolley: This is an Ecumenical Shared Ministry between Episcopalian, Lutheran, and United Methodist Churches in Sedro Woolley, WA. In 2023, conversations between Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Central United Methodist Church began. This was regarding the possibility of having shared ministries. In early 2024, St. James Episcopal Church joined these conversations. After a lot of discussions, deliberations, and prayers, the three congregations decided to share a pastoral leader as a good next step in moving towards the bigger vision of sharing resources and being in partnership to serve the wider community, particularly with our Hispanic/Latinx siblings in Skagit Valley. In July 2024, the Rev. Wilma Reyes (a UMC pastor) was appointed as pastor of ELM Churches in Sedro-Woolley.

First UMC in Mt. Vernon and El Camino de Emaus Lutheran Church in Burlington: In April 2024, we got a request for support from our Lutheran siblings who are also doing a Hispanic Ministry development project in Burlington called El Camino de Emaus. At that time, they were between pastors looking for guest preachers who spoke Spanish to fill the pulpit until they found a regular pastor/ministry developer. I suggested they contact Pastor Zulma and *Pastor Cruz Edwin* to see if they would be willing and available. In the process, the folks in El Camino enjoyed Pastor Zulma's preaching and pastoral presence, so they invited her to preach more often. This opened a conversation about what it would look like and what the impact would be if our two congregations did shared ministries, beginning with the sharing of a pastor. One conversation led to another, and in October 2024, Rev. Zulma Tifre was appointed to El Camino de Emaus as pastor and ministry developer, in addition to her appointment in Mt. Vernon.

United in Grace Church in Monroe: In 2019, our church in Monroe (Monroe UMC) began conversing with a local ELCA congregation (Morning Star Lutheran Church) about ministry partnerships. During the pandemic, they began worshipping together and working more closely with each other by sharing resources and ministries. This new experience of partnering created excitement and hope for these two small congregations. During their Church Conference in 2024, Monroe UMC voted to move to a

A more formal relationship with Morning Star Lutheran Church and submitted a request to merge with them and become United in Grace Church (an ELCA and UMC congregation). In March 2025, the Bishop and the Cabinet finally approved their request.

3) Promoting Partnerships with Each Other

Pastoral Connections: This year, we organized ourselves into three subdistricts. I have invited pastors in each subdistrict to meet regularly in person or via Zoom. The goal was to build relationships among pastors in the district and foster a spirit of collaboration rather than competition. I was hoping that this would also allow our pastors to share resources, encourage one another, and collectively pray for the needs of their communities. Another opportunity that we had to promote these connections was through a district-wide clergy retreat that David Collins hosted in Camp Indianola. I would also like to give a shout-out to *Kathy Hartgraves* and *Brook McBride* for the design and leadership of this retreat.

Lay Connections: Keith Skore, our district lay leader, has been an amazing partner in this work. He has attended almost all the Charge Conferences to make these connections with the laity in our district. He has also invited many to enroll in the Lay Servant Ministry Classes. Furthermore, Keith and Erin Tombaugh planned and coordinated our three lay ministry enhancement events (a.k.a. Roots and Wings on Wheels). It was reported to me that close to 150 people have participated in these training events.

Friends, I cannot overstate the importance of partnerships and community engagement in church life. Through these connections, we are making a more significant impact in the communities we serve and in the lives that we touch. Thus, I encourage us to continue this work of building and nurturing relationships inside and outside of our church buildings because, through them, we can share the love of God in ways we cannot accomplish on our own.

I also want to thank each of you for your unending commitment to love, justice, and peace. Together, we are making an impact and are affecting change in our communities and beyond. Let us continue to seek God’s guidance as we build more partnerships and deepen our involvement in the lives of those around us.

As I often say, let us continue to LOVE GOD MORE, LOVE PEOPLE MORE, and LOVE MORE PEOPLE.

Your sibling and fellow disciple,
Rev. J. Mark Galang, Puget Sound District Superintendent

SEATAC MISSIONAL DISTRICT

As I end my service as SeaTac Deistrict Superintendent, I am overwhelmed with gratitude as I reflect on these last six years and all that we have done and shared together. Thank you for your faithfulness, kindness, and support in our work together, your grace in accepting my shortcomings, and your forgiveness for the times I let you down or did not help your situation as you had hoped.

As I reflect on my last year of leadership in the SeaTac Missional District, we celebrate with joy the collaborative partnerships that have taken place throughout the district: churches that are joining together to share special worship services, workshops and programming, youth group gatherings and confirmation classes; churches that are sharing buildings and sharing pastors; churches offering their parsonages to other churches and pastors to support their ministries; churches who share their buildings and resources with ecumenical partners and community organizations, to name a few. A few of special note that took place this year:



University Gathering began to worship at Green Lake UMC, and have created a Merger Exploration Team to see if their sense of mission and vision have an alignment that would draw their two churches together.

- Bellevue First and Bellevue St. Peter's have spent the last two years working collaboratively in ministry, and have come to believe that they have a future together as a one merged church; and so at a Charge Conference held on March 2, the two churches voted to become one, taking on the new name Hope United Methodist Church.
- Two collaborative partnerships have sought to extend the work with asylum-seeking individuals at Riverton Park UMC, with Fairwood Community UMC, Renton UMC, and El Dios Viviente working together to create a viable partnership that allows asylum seekers to have overnight shelter and a day center for their daytime working needs.
- Tacoma: The Bridge, Tacoma First UMC, and El Dios Viviente have worked together to welcome them into the facility of The Bridge, where they have found shelter and physical and technical support. And in this we must express profound gratitude for the work of *Rev. Jan Bolerjack* at Riverton Park UMC, and Pastor Gerardo Guzman of El Dios Viviente for their tireless efforts for the asylum seekers who have come seeking shelter, welcome and community, and have persevered in the face of public opposition, government bureaucracy, funding challenges, and other types of resistance.

As well, in keeping with *Bishop Cedrick's* vision for Ministry that Matters, with an emphasis on revisioning the missional use of our church properties, SeaTac has several churches that are in a critical stages of visioning and implementation of property development projects that are intended to revitalize these churches and their communities:

- Woodland Park UMC is working to secure an housing developer for their affordable

housing project, constructing a 100 unit building and a new church facility on their site.

- Tacoma: Mason UMC is in the process of seeking a developer who will implement their comprehensive vision for a multi-use, community hub on the whole block they inhabit.
- Bellevue: St Peter's UMC (now Hope UMC) is working with Imagine Housing to implement their vision for multi-building, multi-family affordable housing.
- And with this, several of our churches are in the early stages of investigating their potential for similar projects on their sites, creating exploration teams engaging in feasibility studies and missional visioning for this potential opportunity.

As I write this last report of my term, I want to acknowledge with deep gratitude those churches who have labored on through these challenging times as part-time churches and congregations that are lay-led, who are asking hard questions as they think about continuing ministry sustainability and the future; those churches who are working on the critical issue of environmental stewardship; those churches who are providing housing, food and other social services in places and in communities where city, county, state and federal government and agencies have been slow in grappling with these life and death concerns; and our ethnic churches that play an essential role not only as faith communities but also service organizations and places of gathering for their communities of color, and their families, supporters and allies.

We also want to offer a word of welcome and join in celebrating with those who have reached significant milestones and transitions this year: Job Pangilinan, who will be commissioned as a provisional member at Annual Conference in June, and receive his first appointment to be the Associate Pastor of Blaine Memorial UMC; *Rev. Lisa Connolly*, who will be appointed to Renton UMC; *Rev. Michele Campton-Stehr* who will be appointed to Sand Point Community UMC; *Rev. Cathy Law*, who will be appointed as Associate Pastor at Fairwood Community UMC; Al Harmon, who will be appointed to Seattle: Grace UMC; and Pastor Caleb Encinas Cortés, who was appointed to Federal Way UMC as Pastor of Community Engagement in October 2024. We also wish to offer gratitude and thanksgiving for the years of service and ministry of *Rev. Tom Peterson* and *Rev. Jeff Shamblin-Mullinix*, clergy entering into the retired relationship at this Annual Conference this year.

And we want to offer a hearty and joyful welcome, and express our deepest gratitude and offer our support, for our new Superintendency Team, *Rev. Shalom Agtarap*, *Rev. Elizabeth Ingram Schindler*, and *Rev. Ferdie Llenado*, who will bring forth *Bishop Cedrick's* new vision for the role of Superintendency in the SeaTac Missional District. In many ways, this paradigm shift will be a challenge not just for them but for us all, for we all have our assumptions and expectations for the role of Superintendent that have been formed and shaped throughout our years in the United Methodist Church and our time in our local congregations. This new model will require us to "hold lightly" those expectations and assumptions, so that we might be open to the new ways that the role of Superintendent will reveal possibilities and opportunities for a renewed sense of mission and ministry, of

resource sharing and collaborative partnerships that will move us with energy and passion and commitment into the unfolding and uncertain future.

As I close, I want to offer deep gratitude to those who have served as District Leaders over this last year; thank you for your dedicated and tireless service and commitment in support of the District and my role as Superintendent: Erin Tombaugh, our District Administrator; J.D. Drollinger, our District Lay Leader; *Rev. Laura Baumgartner*, our District Committee on Ministry Chair; Jim Carroll, our District Building and Location Chair; and *Rev. D.J. del Rosario*, who is chairing our Superintendency Committee in support of our new Superintendency Team.

Many of you may remember my first series of Charge Conferences in 2019, before the outbreak of COVID and the pandemic that closed our buildings but not our ministries, I offered a teaching moment that described the challenges and questions of the liminal space and season that I felt was before us. And while we as individuals and churches have labored faithfully throughout this liminal season, it is clear that this is still an accurate description of the reality we are facing now and into the future.

In all of this, I thank you – and give God thanks and praise for you - for your faithful and exceptional witness and ministry in this liminal season and my time with you as Superintendent; it has been an honor and a privilege, and a true joy, to work with you and serve you over these last six years. As I return to the local church in July, you will continue to be in my prayers, and I offer my continued support. Blessings and peace be with you.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Derek Nakano, SeaTac District Superintendent