

ADMINISTRATION

Report

THE PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH CONTINUES

As a busy summer comes to a close, we wanted to take this moment to update you regarding the search for a new president for our conference.

Following the announcement from Minner Labrador Jr. that he had accepted a call to North American Division, the North Pacific Union leadership developed a survey that was sent out to Upper Columbia Conference members in late July.

The Union received several hundred responses to the survey from our members in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Thank you for taking the time to submit your opinions about the future president and the future of this conference. From this survey, two things happened: a profile of what kind of person would be a good fit for our conference was developed, and about two hundred names were submitted for consideration by the presidential search committee.

The committee has continued its work narrowing down the many nominations, checking references, and prayerfully considering next steps.



The process is long and can often seem cumbersome, however, the most important point of the process is that the right person be selected to guide our conference. Following God's direction is critical.

We continue to pray for God's will to be done in this process and for those who are involved in it. It is our hope and prayer that God will continue to bless this conference and its work through our churches, schools, and members. Our communities have never needed to hear the loving Word of God more than now. Please continue to pray that God will direct the committee to the right person to lead our conference.

U C C A D M I N I S T R A T I O N



1916

total students for 2021,
200 more than 2020



10.44

year-to-date tithe increase
compared to August 2020



165

baptisms to-date
for 2021



ACTIONS TAKEN AT 9.23.21 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Administration update

- Rodney Mills, UCC vice president for administration, shared the current conference membership statistical report. To-date in 2021, there have been 165 baptisms across the conference. It is believed that this number is actually higher than reported, as many church clerks only provide baptism reports at the end of the year. Current membership stands at 27,092.
- A department update was given by Jeff Wines, director of youth, young adults, and club ministries. Wines reported on the 2021 year at Camp MiVoden. Despite significant water issues and occasional COVID cases, MiVoden had a very successful year, with several young people making a decision to give their life to Christ.
- Dustin Jones, director of communications, also gave a department update. With most all events being held virtually, communications is experiencing a higher than usual demand for video and event management. Camp meeting had more than 7,000 streams, equating to roughly 21,000 views.

Financial update

- Allee Currier, UCC vice president for finance, presented an update on conference finances.
- God continues to bless the UCC. One of the most prominent ways is through tithe. Tithe continues to outpace what was received last year, at 10.44% year-to-date compared with August 2020.
- Every year, several teachers and pastors move into the conference. UCC has previously relied on other conferences to provide moving services, but a need for transportation services within UCC has been recognized, which would also generate revenue for the conference. It was voted to approve an enabling action for the personnel committee to fill the position of manager for transportation, safety and compliance.

- Much discussion centered around the upcoming Washington Minimum Salary Threshold. Educational employees in Washington are exempt from this requirement, however, this will significantly impact pastors' salaries in the state. It was decided that UCC Oregon and Idaho pastors will receive the same cost of living rate, to maintain salary scale equality amongst all pastors. Teachers will receive a flat cost of living rate, with increases to be reviewed annually. Additionally, to meet the minimum salary threshold, the base salary for pastoral interns will be slightly increased effective January 1, 2022. The base salary schedule for pastoral employees will also be adjusted, effective January 1, 2023.

Education update

- Brian Harris, UCC vice president for education, gave an update from Office of Education.
- Two school constituencies have changed their names: Harris Junior Academy will change to Pendleton Christian School and Hermiston Junior Academy will change to Hermiston Adventist School.
- Jeff "PJ" Deming, principal at Upper Columbia Academy, presented a report. They have begun the school year with 277 students enrolled.
- Across the conference, 1,916 students are currently enrolled in Adventist education, an increase of more than 200 students.

Ordination Recommendations

- The committee voted to recommend Jon Jennette and Howard Tello to the North Pacific Union Executive Committee for ordination.

INCOMING/TRANSFERRING PASTORS



Anthony Burrell
Pastor
Inchelium/
Kettle Falls/
Northport



Eric Miguel
Pastor
Deary/Endicott/
Troy

ACTIVE PASTORAL SEARCHES

- Central Valley Spanish/Granger Spanish/Wapato Spanish
- New Movement – Pasco
- All Nations/Granger/Zillah

