



A Safe Space for Spiritual Development

Annual Report 2015-2016

Operating out of the **Community Congregational United Church of Christ** at
525 NE Campus St. Pullman, Washington 99163

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1138, Pullman, WA 99163

A Safe Space for Spiritual Development

The Common Ministry Council at Pullman, WA, Inc. is an open and accepting community that seeks to provide “A Safe Space for Spiritual Development” for the students, staff, and faculty of WSU. Our programs offer a safe space for diverse religious opinions by increasing respect and mutual understanding among people of different faith, ethnic, and cultural traditions and by fostering cooperation among religious communities and civic organizations.

The Common Ministry at WSU also partners with Washington State University to promote Spirituality in Higher Education.

The Common Ministry at WSU is a Christian, Protestant, ecumenical organization. Our partners include United Methodist, Presbyterian (USA), Disciples of Christ, American Baptist, Episcopal (USA), and United Church of Christ communities. The Common Ministry at WSU also partners with various religious and non-religious organizations to promote dialog, peace, and unity in the community.

We are dedicated to helping all students in their spiritual development, to promoting reconciliation among religions, and to sharing the love of God with all.

The Common Ministry at WSU is a 501(c)(3) religious non-profit organization in the state of Washington.

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Common Ministry Annual Report 2015-2016

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Common Ministry Council Directory 2015- 2016

AMERICAN BAPTIST

Roy Johnson

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Vacant

EPISCOPAL

*Sue Durrant President/Past-President

COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Chip Laird Past-President
Nancy Nydegger

AT LARGE

*Emi Dickens Vice President/President
Nicholas Cerruti
*Brad Vonhof Vice President and Secretary
Matthew Conrath Treasurer

COMMON MINISTRY STAFF

Lisa Soranaka Office Manager
Amelia Craigen Office Manager

*Rev. Jessica Stokes Director

*Executive Committee

Report from the President of the Common Ministry Council
July 2015-June 2016

Emi Dickens

The school year 2015 started out well. Throughout the summer, Jessica Stokes, Director of the Common Ministry (CM), participated in WSU's Alive orientation sessions to introduce herself and the CM to new, incoming students and their parents. Also during the summer, Jessica Stokes, and a planning committee of community members were busy planning the Roger Williams Symposium to be held in October.

We welcomed Sister Simone Campbell, Executive Director of NETWORK, in Washington, D.C., and author of *A Nun on the Bus*, to Pullman for the Roger Williams Symposium on October 4 and 5, 2015. On October 4, Sr. Simone spoke at Gladish Community Center. She gave a workshop for community members at St. James Episcopal Church and a seminar at WSU's Thomas Foley Institute on October 5. All the sessions were well attended by community members and WSU students. This symposium would not have been successful without dedicated community members who served on the committee along with the CM Director, Jessica Stokes – Tim Paulitz, Francy Bose, Mary Beth Rivetti, and Jane Sielken.

On April 10, 2016 the 28th Annual Dinner Auction fundraiser was held at Banyans on the Ridge. Although the attendance has decreased steadily over the past couple of years, our supporters were very generous at the auction and helped us raise funds to support the operation of the CM. The committee members worked hard to put this event together. The committee members were Sue Durrant, Nancy Nydegger, Barbara Hammond, Jessica Stokes, Amelia Craigen, and Emi Dickens.

In early April, Jessica Stokes notified the CM Council of her resignation from her position as Director of the CM to take on a new adventure in North Carolina. We are grateful for what she's done for the CM. The CM Council decided to keep the ministry going on a smaller scale, and is currently working to identify a new structure through which the mission of the CM can be carried out for the future.

At the end of the calendar year 2015, our budget ended with deficit as we had predicted. We've looked into ways to save money and put together 2016 budget with an understanding that we will start using funds from our investment funds.

As with many other non-profit organizations, we are facing a great challenge with our organization's financial state, and we have to come up with creative ways to sustain our ministry. The Council members are committed to the mission of the Common Ministry, and we are all grateful for the community members who support us in many ways.

June 15, 2016

Director's Report

Rev. Jessica Stokes

This 2015-2016 has been a productive year for our ministry! We have stayed true to our mission of providing a safe space for spiritual development for all students and community members. Reflecting on this past year's events, programming, and collaborations fills me with feelings of pride for the Common Ministry at WSU. Our organization worked diligently in the Pullman-Moscow community through a myriad of efforts to advance inclusion and dignity for all people. Each effort, small-scale to large, was done with intentionality of our mission for the well-being of our community. The core of all our programming and collaborations was inclusive for all. Our students and community members were able to connect to social justice through thought-provoking conversations.

There are key events that naturally standout, including our 36th Roger Williams Symposium, which featured Sister Simone Campbell, Executive Director of NETWORK in Washington, D.C. This two-day event offered plenty of opportunity to learn from Sister Simone Campbell on social-justice issues ranging from income disparity to healthcare advocacy. This symposium included three major events: the keynote speech/ town hall meeting at Gladish Community Center; a half-day workshop that included breakout sessions around Sister Simone's topics; an afternoon talk that was in collaboration with the Thomas Foley Institute. We are proud to have hosted Sr. Simone Campbell but more importantly thankful that we were able to bring her ideas and energy to, in turn, benefit Pullman. The Roger Williams Symposium also included a summer book club that community members enjoyed. The book club read Sister Simone's "A Nun on the Bus" in preparation for her visit.

The Common Ministry found strength in its programming with various collaborations on and off-campus. There are many collaborations but our strongest ties are with the Gender Identity/Expression and Sexual Orientation Resource Center at WSU, The WSU Wesleyan Foundation, Community Congregational United Church of Christ, St. James Episcopal Church, Pullman Islamic Center, the Evergreen Baptist Association, and the Residence Life Office at WSU to highlight a few. I had the opportunity to guest lecture and present various topics before classes and trainings on WSU's campus on interfaith dialogue, religiosity, and inclusivity. I also was able to speak to congregations through preaching. The Common Ministry was repeatedly called upon to provide services for the enhancement of student life. We are proud to be able to provide a needed and unique resource that no one else in Pullman currently provides. We are grateful to have good rapport with WSU, and their trust, as our shared work constantly intersects. A good portion of the year is reminding the community of our non-discriminatory mission as well invoking the trust that we have worked so hard to earn through our transparent and open ministry.

The Common Ministry's programming was varied and supported through the help of a student intern. We had our regular, bi-weekly, Interfaith Respite program which offered students a safe space to gather and discuss an entire host of topics. We covered topics ranging from civil rights, gender issues, LGBTQ+ advocacy, to Islamophobia. The mission of this program is to blend

matters of spirituality and philosophy with the needs for social justice that circuit them. The hope for the program is that students will be able to discuss, learn, and take the compassion and understanding they have attained into their other communities. This year we added a small group that was for students that self-identify as progressive Christians. This group was requested by students that wanted to look at scripture and issues through an ecumenical lens. We continued last year's young adult/graduate student group "Theology on Tap" which is an informally-structured group that meets around matters of spirituality, current events, and science; it is an interesting blend of interests and perspectives. This group will join the WSU Wesleyan Foundation's group "Grounds". In addition, the CM continued to host the monthly interfaith dialogue group that brings together clergy, WSU faculty, and other community leaders. We also enjoyed our annual student retreat, which took place in January at Camp Twinlow in Idaho. It was a weekend of outdoor recreation, rest, and discussions around all types of relevant topics. We had a great time learning and retreating with other college students from all over Eastern Washington.

Through our commitment to providing a safe space for spiritual development, the Common Ministry has been an anchor of inclusion and social justice in Pullman. We are thankful for the support we receive as we continue to live out our mission. Thank you.

Common Ministry at Washington State University Budget Report
For January 1 to December 31, 2015

Categories:	YTD as of 12/31/15	Monthly Budget	% of Monthly	YTD % of Annual	2015 Budget	2016 proposed Budget
Income:						
Individual Donations	17,165.00	1,166.67	228%	123%	14,000.00	14,000.00
Congregational Donations	3,700.00	500.00	110%	62%	6,000.00	6,000.00
Dinner and Auction	13,551.00	1,166.67	0%	97%	14,000.00	14,000.00
CMHE	14,487.48	1,030.83	0%	117%	12,370.00	-
Merchandise	-	16.67	0%	0%	200.00	-
Roger Williams Symposium	5,020.00	208.33	0%	201%	2,500.00	2,500.00
Stearns Student Fund	200.00	83.33	0%	20%	1,000.00	1,000.00
Endowment Fund	2,912.73	233.33	0%	104%	2,800.00	2,900.00
Miscellaneous	830.00					
TOTAL INCOME	57,866.21	4,405.83	73%	109%	52,870.00	40,400.00
Expenses:						
Director Salary Package	41,582.89	3,470.50	100%	100%	41,646.00	41,686.00
Director Housing Allowance	18,000.00	1,500.00	100%	100%	18,000.00	18,000.00
Director Prof. Development	823.02	166.67	0%	41%	2,000.00	2,000.00
Office Manager Salary	8,736.73	1,083.33	56%	67%	13,000.00	12,000.00
Dept of Labor & Industry	960.94	50.00	405%	160%	600.00	800.00
Administrative Dues & Fees	34.85	66.67	7%	4%	800.00	300.00
Printing and Advertising	292.41	166.67	0%	15%	2,000.00	1,500.00
Dinner and Auction	3,009.01	291.67	0%	86%	3,500.00	3,500.00
Insurance	1,447.00	125.00	0%	96%	1,500.00	1,500.00
Office Supplies	1,285.86	125.00	84%	86%	1,500.00	1,500.00
Computer	-	41.67	0%	0%	500.00	500.00
Hospitality	190.83	41.67	31%	38%	500.00	300.00
Building Operations	4,027.13	335.00	100%	100%	4,020.00	4,020.00
Stearns Student Fund	200.00	83.33	240%	20%	1,000.00	1,000.00
Roger Williams Symposium	3,746.90	208.33	0%	150%	2,500.00	2,500.00
Miscellaneous	126.93					500.00
Total Expenses	84,464.50	7,755.50	83%	91%	93,066.00	91,606.00
Net Income	<u>(26,598.29)</u>					(51,206.00)

Investment accounts as of December 31, 2015

Endowment Account:	\$66,726.94
Reserve Account:	\$41,179.18
Schulze Account:	\$57,861.48

Dinner and Auction Report

Nancy Nydegger

The 28th Annual Dinner Auction was held Sunday, April 10, 2016 at Banyans on the Ridge. Friends of the Common Ministry gathered to share a meal, outbid their friends and provide financial support for the Common Ministry. Austin Booker, auctioneer, was a familiar face in his thirteenth year as auctioneer, and we all enjoyed his stories and patter.

Jessica Stokes announced her resignation as director of the Common Ministry to the attendees. She shared her plans for the future with friends. The participants bid competitively and bought raffle tickets to continue to support our ministry.

Many thanks to the auction committee members, Emi Dickens, Sue Durrant, Nancy Nydegger, Barbara Hammond, Amelia Craigen and Jessica Stokes.

Special thanks to individuals and businesses who donated auction items:

Jill Aesoph	Palouse Discovery Science Center
Brused Books	Palouse Ridge Golf Course
Francy Bose	Paradise Creek Brewery
Greg Bloom	Tim Paulitz
Martin & Marcia Buehler	Monica Peters
CCUCC Thrift Shop	Rico's Pub
Amelia Craigen	Hailey Rupp
Edward Jones/Greg Bloom	Silverwood Theme Park
Emi Dickens	Sunshine Flowers/Jane Stratton
Sue Durrant	United Methodist Women
The Flansburg Family	Village Centre Cinemas
Alex & Barbara Hammond	Joanne Washburn
Just Trade/Nancy Nydegger	Kristine Zakarison
Nancy Mack	
George & Marilee Martin	
Merry Cellars	
Walt & Janet Miller	
Neill's Flowers	