K. REPORTS OF SUPERINTENDENTS
CREST TO COAST MISSIONAL DISTRICT

Grace and Peace to the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference from the Crest to Coast Missional District!

It has been my practice to update the Annual Conference on the state of the Crest to Coast District through annual thematic lenses. As I reflect on the district this past year, these are the themes I've witnessed: Connection and Collaboration, Recovery and Emergence, and Grace and Gratitude.



Connection and Collaboration

In the past year, we've seen fruit from intentional opportunities for United Methodists to connect and collaborate with others. I'm proud of the way the laity and pastoral leaders in the district have really stepped up our willingness to work with other faith communities and community partners. The Twin Harbors sub-district completed a multi-year visioning process, which includes welcoming a pastoral team in July 2026 and working together more intentionally in the years to come to make space for new ministry in the area. The South Sound Cooperative assisted Little Rock United Methodist Church with pastoral leadership and administrative support during a year of transition. The Lower Columbia River United Methodist Connection, which includes five churches in two annual conferences, started a new partnership with a pastoral team that helps the conference envision a new model of pastoral ministry. The United Methodist Presbyterian Church in Kelso successfully transitioned to its first Presbyterian Pastor and is getting to know its Presbyterian roots better.

Connection and collaboration are also present in other ways across the district. Twice this year, I've offered a series of Monday evening gatherings where laity can come together to build relationships and ask questions about leadership in the church. Our district deepened our sense of connectedness by living into the first shift of our new Superintendency model. Superintendent *Rev. Shalom Agtarap* started supporting the churches in the northern part of our district. Finally, Ordained Elders presided at most of the Charge Conferences this past fall. We truly are better together. Connecting and collaborating are not easy. It can be challenging, but there are deep gifts as we engage with God and one another.

Recovery and Emergence

I continue to see churches recover and emerge from all sorts of things. Some churches have done some good, hard work to move towards financial sustainability in the future – Shelton, Tumwater, First Olympia, Puyallup, Chehalis, and Vancouver Heights. Many churches have seen an increase in membership and worship attendance – Ridgefield Community, Tumwater, Shelton, Mill Plain, and Eatonville, to name a few. Churches are experimenting with new programming for the community, such as Winlock's Grubs

and Giggles, a monthly fellowship and food ministry. Castle Rock was one of the first recipients of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference's Ministry Opportunity Fund Grants. This grant will help expand their thriving 4-H ministry and add a meal program component. Finally, the emergence of pastoral teams serving multiple churches in a geographic area is growing in the Crest to Coast District. The Lower Columbia River United Methodist Connection (Longview, Kalama, Castle Rock, St. Helens & Rainier) is going strong in its first year of ministry. The United Methodist Ministries of Hub and Mint Cities (Centralia and Chehalis) and the Twin Harbors (Elma, Satsop, Montesano, Central Park, Oakville, Willapa, Hoquiam, Ocean Shores) will both have pastoral teams appointed beginning in July 2026. The Greater Northwest Area will learn from these emerging pastoral team ministries.

Grace and Gratitude

As I come to the end of my eight-year service in the Crest to Coast District, I continue to experience grace and gratitude for the ministry in our area. The work we do can be difficult at times – conflict bubbles up, unexpected crises flare, and change creates uncertainty. Through it all, I experience grace upon grace with pastoral leaders and with laity in leadership and in the pews. We all carry a deep and abiding faith in the love of God, the liberation that comes from Jesus, and the power of the Spirit. We believe that the body of Christ can have a positive impact on our communities, and our communities can have a positive impact on our churches. We do seek to do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God. Praise be to God! As I move from the breadth of relationships in the conference to the depth of relationships within a local church, I thank you for the ministry we have shared. It has been a great honor to share in this ministry together. Please join me in praying for the incoming Superintendency Teams that will serve all our districts, and for the team that will serve the Crest to Coast District. May the ministry that we do together be pleasing to God and increase love in our communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Kathleen Weber
Crest to Coast District Superintendent

INLAND AND SEVEN RIVERS MISSIONAL DISTRICTS

The Work We Do Together

This fifth and final year in this ministry of superintendency comes to an end for me, and a new process for superintendency will begin. The new superintendency team for the east side will have different boundaries than those presently delineating the Seven Rivers and Inland Districts. Those boundaries will become even more permeable – so permeable that one superintendent will extend into Oregon for much-needed geographical reasons. This new way of superintending will test our historic assumptions about boundaries and the sense of "ownership" of specific places.

As we begin this new superintendency model, I ask that you keep the incoming superintendents, *Hubert Rigor, Cody Natland, and Geoff Helton*, in your prayers. The reality is that many, if not most of us, struggle to settle into new things, processes, and ways of functioning, and this is certainly something new and different.



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 Busier

Many of us are busy and likely tired as we do more with less. Sometimes we have fewer people, resources, finances, and energy. And there is also energy, hope, curiosity, and experimentation in our congregations. There are several churches that not only rebounded from the effects of Covid-19 but are growing numerically and in ministries that matter. There are fewer full-time congregations now than five years ago, and those congregations have found ways to be involved in their communities, in ministries that matter, and have adjusted to new forms of leadership. Out of necessity and for the good of the church, many congregations have become more flexible, curious, and able to make leadership shifts to continue meaningful ministry. Over the years, I have heard small congregations described as a detriment, but the reality is that they can do good ministry. With the increasing number of less-than-full-time congregations, we need to rethink the importance of smaller congregations.

Thank You

As I exit this ministry, I am grateful for the Cohort Pastors who have served these last five years. I am grateful for the work of Connectional Minister *Sheila Miranda*, who has provided churches with resources and training. A big thank you to District Lay Leaders,

Billie Fitzsimmons and John Townsend. And of course, a debt of gratitude to our administrative assistant, Laura Velonza, who keeps all of us informed and answers the many questions from churches.

It has been a great pleasure to work with such generous and gifted colleagues. I cannot overemphasize the importance of the team approach that has supported me so well these past five years. Without our entire team, the work would have been overwhelming and lonely.

My Hope

A new superintendency approach will begin, and I hope you will be open to it.

In this time of change, we must pray for our new superintendents and the churches they serve in their new roles.

I was recently reading a book, and one of the things a character said was, "If you are not making mistakes, you are not living." So, I really hope you can be curious, try new things, fail, and in the process learn something good.

I hope that you will find balance between the hard work you do with your heart, mind, and soul. May a deep trust in God guide and bless your journey.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Daniel Miranda
Seven Rivers and Inland District Superintendent

PUGET SOUND MISSIONAL DISTRICT

As I conclude my eight years of service as District Superintendent, I do so with deep gratitude and sense of holy wonder. It has been an extraordinary season in the life of the church – one marked by challenge, change, and above all, the steady presence of God among us.

Together, we navigated the uncertainties of a global pandemic. We learned new ways of being church when our buildings were closed but our hearts remained open. We discovered resilience we did not know we had. We found connection across distance. We witnessed the Spirit move not only in sanctuaries, but in homes, on screens, and in acts of care for the most vulnerable that in the end sustained us all.



We also walked through the difficult and painful season of disaffiliation. These were not easy days. They required courage, honesty, and grace. And even in the midst of loss, I saw deep commitment among you – to remain rooted in Christ, to care for one another, and to continue the work of ministry with faithfulness.

For all of this, I give you thanks.

Even so, the story is not ending—it is turning.

Beginning July 1, 2026, our district will be served by a new superintendency team. We welcome Rev. Pat Longstroth, Rev. Joe Kim and Rev. Joel Aosved as our new Superintendents. They will share the role and responsibility while they also continue to serve as pastors in their local congregations. This is a new model for us, and perhaps, even a courageous one. It reflects a willingness to experiment, to adapt, and to trust that leadership can emerge in collaborative and contextually grounded ways.

I am truly excited for our district for I know the gifts each one of them brings.

As I step away from this role, I do so with confidence – not only in our new superintendents, but even more in the faithfulness of God - and in you, my siblings and partners in ministry. I truly believe that the same Spirit that carried us through the past eight years will continue to lead, guide, and renew the church for the sake of the world.

Finally, as I always say and pray, "May the Holy Spirit continue to enliven and guide your lives and ministries so you can become the radically welcoming and loving faith communities, you were always meant to be."

Thank you for the privilege of serving alongside you.

With gratitude and hope,

Rev. J. Mark Galang
Puget Sound District Superintendent

SEATAC MISSIONAL DISTRICT

Develop and Connect



These two words became our touchstones as we set out on a new path for the Conference, a new team to lead SeaTac, and a new workload, each of us carrying part-time jobs in ministry settings in addition to District supervision.

Rev. Elizabeth Ingram-Schindler always brings a systems-thinking approach to our work, asking, "Is this sustainable?" "Is this the best way to free us for impactful ministry?" *Rev. Ferdie Llendro* leads with pastoral care and always considers the impact on a fellow clergy person, or what they might be holding in any given season. *Rev. Shalom Agtarap* brings many gifts to collaborative work on justice issues and has expanded the witness at the Northwest Detention Center into an active visitation program with those detained. The SeaTac Superintendency Team began in July with deep respect and hope for a team approach to this work of superintendency, which can be so isolating and lead a solo District Superintendent to burn out.

We have met with each clergy person in the district in person at least once, and we have also prioritized in-person consultations with SPRCs. We feel it's important to be "high touch" by meeting in person and checking in more regularly, so that when tough conversations or crises emerge, we have a strong foundation to build on. We've created a clergy prayer chain where pastoral leaders can share their joys and concerns and be held in prayer.

One thing that became very clear in working with the district was the need for renewal leave and assisting clergy with parental leave. Often, when we feel restless and lose focus, we can turn to shame, but what's most needed is time for refreshment, connection with the natural world, and time away with God. Four of our clergy are on renewal leave, and we encourage all our communities to plan for these Discipline-mandated leaves, where appropriate, in the coming months.

Some of the hopes and dreams shared with us by clergy colleagues were to become braver in the face of a hostile world and more responsive to community needs, and we hope to create affinity groups this coming year where pastoral leaders practice their public witness in ways that foster more courageous leaders. We can do this solidarity work better together than each congregation on its own.

Four new babies were born to clergy in SeaTac! We praise God for their safe passage into the world! In January, Tongan First UMC was honored to host the Princess of Tonga! To the north of our district, we celebrate Haller Lake UMC's efforts in creating affordable housing. To the south of our district, Mason UMC continues to move into the neighborhood as it builds more buy-in for an affordable housing project with Mercy Housing

Northwest. And, we will see the faithful completion of Magnolia UMC at this annual conference, and we give God thanks for their deep heart and faithfulness.

We are grateful for a multiracial, multilingual, urban/suburban context where we can build impactful ministry for an inclusive Christ!

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Shalom Agtarap, Rev. Ferdie Llenado, Rev. Elizabeth Ingram-Schindler
SeaTac Superintendency Team