

*flourish*  
Mid-Columbia

Integrating faith, work, and everyday living

**Annual Report to the Board**

**Fiscal Year – August 1, 2018 to July 31, 2019**

Prepared by Dan Wodrich, Executive Director

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# Executive Director's Report

## Introduction

*“At the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho. And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan. He said to the Israelites, ‘In the future when your descendants ask their parents, ‘What do these stones mean?’ tell them ‘Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’ For the LORD your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The LORD your God did to the Jordan what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God.”*

*Joshua 4:19-24*

Just as the LORD had previously brought the Israelites through the Red Sea, so he again showed his love and faithfulness by stopping the flow of the Jordan River so they could cross on dry ground into the promised land. He directed them to pick-up and carry twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan and to set them down where they camped for the night to serve as a sign forever to remind them and their descendants and all the peoples of the earth of the Lord and his powerful action on their behalf.

It seems fitting to me that this fiscal year-end report serves as a kind of “stack of rocks” for us – reminding us of our Lord’s loving and faithful action for us and his Flourish Mid-Columbia ministry over the past year – enabling us to provide encouraging, educational, and personal equipping and accompaniment to people desiring to live more fully-integrated lives in Christ – in our homes, our workplaces, and in our community. He has called us to trust him to lead and provide as we follow Him into this Mid-Columbia region to live and serve in His Name for the blessing and flourishing of others.

As I reflect on the past year (and the few short months prior to that when Flourish Mid-Columbia was birthed as a nonprofit corporation in Washington state), I marvel at our Lord and His remarkable provision and faithfulness to us, evidenced in so many ways. I hope the memorial “stack of rocks” in this report will fill your hearts to overflowing with gratitude, joy, and praise, as they have mine. May they instill in us a blessed sense of encouragement from and confidence in Him – that He who has begun a good work in and through our Flourish Mid-Columbia ministry team, is more than able to carry it on to completion – for the blessing of our community, His world, and the glory of His Name.

*Dan*

Dan Wodrich



## Partners and Participants

There are many persons, churches, organizations, and institutions who have participated in and contributed to the ministry of Flourish Mid-Columbia in a variety of ways. I want to recognize and highlight some of these friends as a way of saying thanks.

### Board of Directors

Our Lord has gathered a unique and diversely gifted, wise and loving team of persons to serve as Board members, friends, and partners in this endeavor. This team has met together with the Executive Director monthly (and more often when necessary) to seek and discern the Lord's leading for this ministry, to pray for and encourage one another and those we are called to serve, and to make strategic and practical decisions necessary to help our young ministry grow and mature for fruitfulness and blessing in the lives of others.

Our current Board is comprised of the following persons:



Dr. James Morris  
President



Rev. Steve Ernst  
Vice-President



Scott Johnson  
Treasurer



Dr. Melanie Saint James  
At Large

The Executive Director serves as Board secretary in a non-voting capacity.

I also want to thank the following friends who have served faithfully and beneficially on our Board in the past and who continue to encourage and partner with us in non-Board capacities:



Rick Donahoe



Dr. Cameron Hohimer

## Churches, Organizations, and Institutions

The following churches have partnered with and supported Flourish Mid-Columbia in a variety of ways:

### West Side Church (formerly West Side United Protestant Church)



WEST SIDE  
church

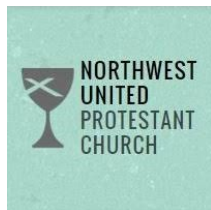
Flourish Mid-Columbia was originally envisioned and launched by members of West Side Church. The West Side Church family has provided prayerful and practical wisdom, support, and encouragement for this ministry – from providing venue space for an initial “Share the Vision” event in the Fall of 2017 – to financially supporting Flourish through her Mission Council – to providing finance office assistance for receiving and handling donations – to inviting Flourish to lead mid-week adult discipleship activities associated with the integration of faith and science. We thank the Lord for our friends at West Side Church and their partnership with us in our Lord’s ministry.

### Richland Lutheran Church



RLC has partnered with and supported Flourish Mid-Columbia in a number of ways – from providing office space for the Executive Director – to providing venue space and technical assistance for our “Vision for Vocation” event in the Spring of 2018 – to providing financial support to Flourish via the Outreach Committee – to providing wisdom and administrative help with researching D&O insurance options -- to allowing the lead pastor to serve as Vice-President on our Board – to providing venue space for our hosting of a “ReFrame: Connecting Faith and Life” course – to inviting us to share the Flourish vision and ministry between worship services in their “HeBrews Café” – to conversing with us about ways to nurture a Spiritual Formation culture within the life of the RLC congregation – to inviting Flourish to lead an upcoming men’s retreat. We thank the Lord for our RLC friends and their partnership with us in our Lord’s ministry.

### Northwest United Protestant Church



NWUP Church has partnered with and supported Flourish Mid-Columbia in a variety of ways by providing office and meeting space and utilities for the Executive Director and for various Flourish meetings and activities – by hosting and co-leading a “ReFrame: Connecting Faith & Life” course for her church members – by providing venue space for a Flourish-facilitated retreat for Central Church staff and members. We thank the Lord for our NWUP friends and their partnership in our Lord’s ministry.

## **Central Church (formerly Central United Protestant Church)**



Central Church has partnered with and supported Flourish Mid-Columbia by inviting our Spiritual Formation coaching and accompaniment for some staff and congregation members and has expressed interest in further collaboration for the blessing of their church family and local community. We thank the Lord for our Central Church friends and their partnership with us in our Lord’s ministry.

## **Regent College**



Replicating the kind of quality theological education and Christian community provided and experienced at Regent College in Vancouver, BC has been an integral part of the Flourish Mid-Columbia vision and mission for, to, and in our local community. Regent staff members, including Dr. James Houston, Dr. Steven Garber, and Rebecca Pousette have traveled to the Tri-Cities to participate in Flourish-facilitated events focused on sharing our vision. Last Fall, Flourish collaborated with Regent College to host a local live webstream viewing of the Regent “Interface” lectures series on Faith and Science integration. Flourish has utilized the Regent-produced, “ReFrame: Connecting Faith & Life” video course curriculum as one of our primary educational resources.

## **Gather4Him Christian College**



G4H has supported and partnered with Flourish Mid-Columbia in a number of ways – providing venue space for our Faith & Science evening presentations and gatherings – for encouraging G4H student participation in Flourish events – and for inviting the Flourish Executive Director to serve their students as a faculty member, bringing Flourish resources and educational emphases to their curriculum.

## **Institute for Marketplace Transformation**



Based in Vancouver, BC, the IMT team (including Dr. Paul Stevens and David Sayson) has collaborated with Flourish Mid-Columbia by sharing their wisdom, expertise, and educational resources, including allowing Flourish to experiment with them by webstreaming a vocational discernment workshop facilitated by the IMT in Vancouver for the benefit of a small pilot group of Tri-Citians.

## **Imago Christi**



The Imago Christi arm of NOVO has partnered and collaborated with Flourish Mid-Columbia in the co-hosting of a local “Spiritual Formation Discovery Retreat” for staff and members of Central Church in Richland. Dr. Melanie Saint James, a member of the Imago Christi core team, voluntarily serves on our Flourish Board – sharing her wisdom, experience, and expertise in Spiritual Formation, among other things.

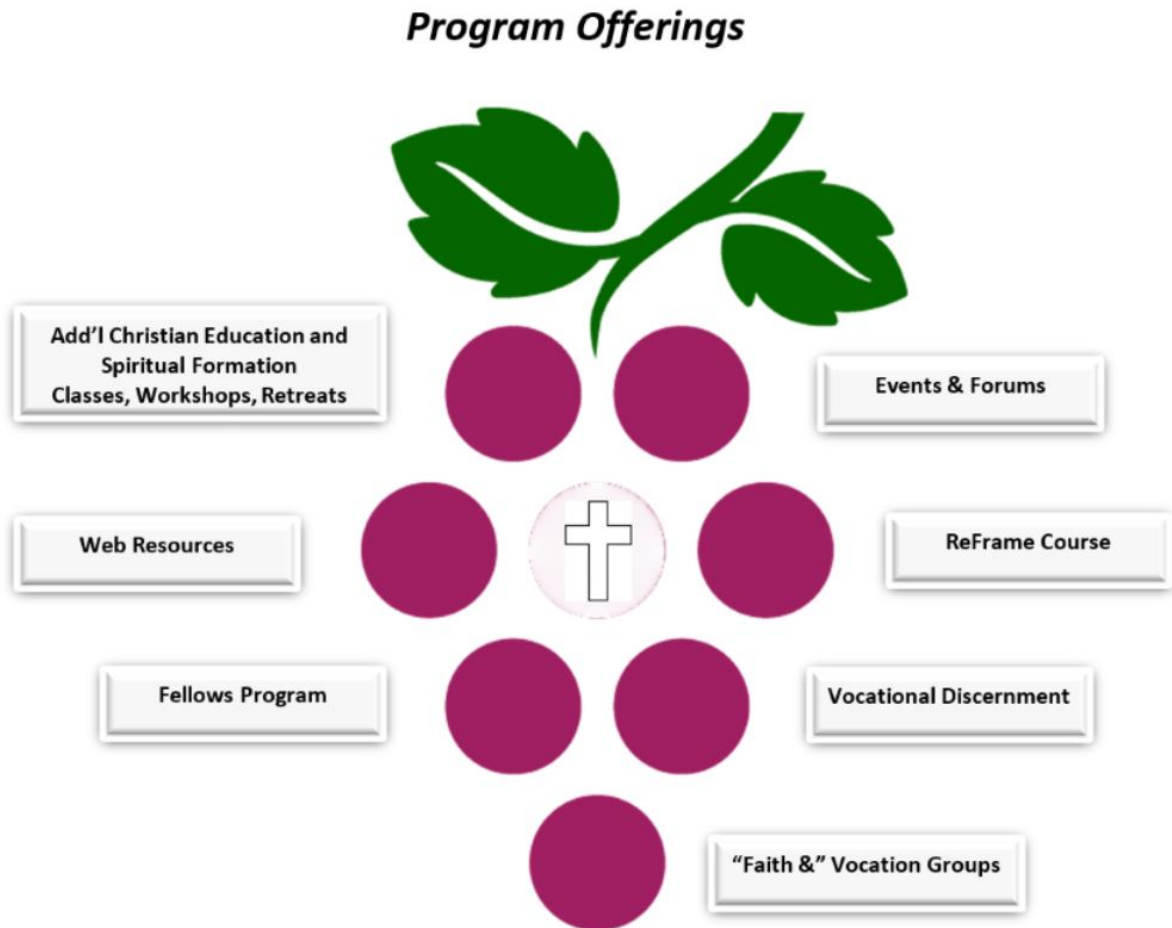
## **Other Organizations, Ministries, and Institutions**

Other organizations, ministries, and institutions who have beneficially influenced, contributed to, and/or partnered with our Flourish Mid-Columbia ministry during our existence include:

- The Ingalls Creek Enrichment Center (Doug Waltar, Executive Director)
- The Denver Institute for Faith & Work (Jeff Haanen, Executive Director)
- Flourish San Diego (Dr. Geoff Hsu, Executive Director)
- Made to Flourish Network – Seattle Learning Community
- The Open Table Conference (Dr. C. Baxter Kruger, William Paul Young, John MacMurray)
- Cascade Fellows – Seattle (Dr. Uli Chi)
- New City Fellows, Raleigh, NC (Katherine Leary Alsdorf)

## Program Offerings and Activities

The vision and ministry of Flourish is being implemented and made manifest through a variety of program offerings. The offerings as originally envisioned are depicted below:



As shown, Jesus Christ and His ongoing Lordship and ministry is central. He is the way, the truth, and the life – the One who has created, who sustains, and who holds all things together. To the extent Flourish is enabled to provide any beneficial service for the flourishing of others is entirely understood as a gracious gift of getting to participate, by the Spirit, in Christ's life and ministry to and for the blessing of the world, to the glory of God the Father.

What follows here is a brief "fruit" report on the activities, accomplishments, progress (or not) in each of the above programmatic offerings (moving clockwise around the grape cluster diagram).



## Events & Forums



There were no large-scale Flourish Mid-Columbia events or forums conducted during the past fiscal year. Smaller-scale events and activities will be addressed in other program offering areas in this report.

For historical record, two large events were held prior to the past fiscal year and were associated with sharing the Flourish vision and mission.



The first was a “Share the Vision” event held October 27-28, 2017 at West Side Church. Dr. James Houston, founding Principal of Regent College, was the invited main speaker. Jim shared about the vision and founding of Regent College nearly 50 years ago. He offered his wisdom and counsel regarding the then-anticipated launch of Flourish Mid-Columbia. Dan Wodrich shared the vision for Flourish Mid-Columbia as perceived at that time.



The second large event, entitled “A Vision for Vocation” was held March 9-10, 2018 at Richland Lutheran Church – just prior to the formal incorporation of Flourish Mid-Columbia as a nonprofit in Washington State. Dr. Steven Garber and Ms. Rebecca Pousette, both from Regent



College, were the invited speakers. Their sharing about the meaning of “vocation” as a “calling” of and from God, along with their introduction and overview of the Regent College “ReFrame: Connecting Faith and Life” video course was beneficial in helping spread the word about Flourish Mid-Columbia and about one of our key educational resources.

## ReFrame Course



Flourish facilitated the sharing of the “ReFrame: Connecting Faith and Life” course with Mid-Columbians in several different ways and settings, including:



- ReFrame was incorporated into the Bible Study Methods class curriculum at Gather4Him Christian College in the Spring Semester of 2019. This class was taught by the Flourish Executive Director.
- Flourish coached and accompanied NWUP Church staff in leading the ReFrame course in the Fall of 2018 as part of the NWUP Adult Education offerings for their church members.
- Flourish led a break-out session introducing the ReFrame resource at the ECO Presbytery of the Northwest annual meeting in May 2019 in Kirkland, WA.

- Flourish conducted the ReFrame course for two small groups of Mid-Columbians meeting for theological conversation on Tuesday evenings and Friday lunchtimes at Gather4Him Christian College and at Northwest United Protestant Church, respectively.

On Thursday evenings in the late Spring and early Summer of 2018, just prior to the past fiscal year, Flourish conducted the ReFrame course at Richland Lutheran Church for a small group of persons from several churches. This course was held in the Friendship Room of Richland Lutheran Church.

Participants in the above ReFrame courses came from a variety of local churches and ministries, including: West Side Church, Richland Lutheran Church, South Hills Church, Tri-Cities Alliance Church, New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Central Church, and the Tri-Cities Chaplaincy.

### **Vocational Discernment**



There were no “vocational discernment” workshops or courses offered during the past fiscal year.

For historical record, Flourish hosted a “pilot” vocational discernment workshop for a dozen Tri-Citians over four consecutive Saturday mornings in January and February of 2018 in the home of Dr. and Mrs. Lou Koussa in Richland. This workshop was conducted in collaboration with The Institute for Marketplace Transformation who was conducting the workshop live at Tenth Avenue Church in Vancouver, BC. Our local “pilot” group was blessed to view and discuss the IMT presentations via live webstream here in the Tri-Cities.

### **“Faith &” Vocation Groups**



Flourish launched and facilitated a local “Faith and Science conversation” and vocation group initiative during the past fiscal year. Given the demographics of



our Mid-Columbia region, commencing and facilitating a vocation group and conversation in the arena of science, engineering, and technology was and continues to be a high priority. Under the leadership of Dr. Jim Morris, a program planning team was assembled and has been gathering on Tuesdays for lunch, conversation, and planning of the “faith and science” initiative and program offerings.

Our faith and science public conversation was launched in the Fall of 2018 with our hosting of six live webstreamed lectures given by invited speakers at Regent College in Vancouver, BC, as part of their “Interface” series on theology and science. The Templeton Foundation sponsored the Interface series at Regent. Flourish Mid-Columbia was enabled to webstream the lectures at no charge. Gather4Him Christian College graciously allowed Flourish



to utilize their Chapel as our venue for these evening gatherings. Speakers included Dr. Alister McGrath, Dr. Sarah Coakley, and Dr. Jenns Zimmerman, among others. Local attendance averaged about 20 people – with nearly 50 different Mid-Columbians attending one or more of the Interface lectures.

In the new year of 2019, the Flourish faith and science “conversation” continued with presentations and gatherings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month at Gather4Him. Local speakers shared about why the integration of faith and science was important to them and how it was getting worked out in their own lives and work. In addition, video resources featuring Dr. Alister McGrath and Dr. John Lennox were utilized.

West Side Church invited Flourish to provide a four-week class in May of 2019 as part of their Wednesday evening adult education and discipleship program on the West Side campus. The Flourish faith and science planning team utilized a combination of video-based resources and local speakers to provide educational fodder for the conversation.

### **Fellows Program**



A 9-month intensive “Fellows Program” has been an integral offering of “centers” for faith and work integration in other cities around the country, similar to Flourish Mid-Columbia. During the past year, relatively little progress has been made on establishing a Fellows Program here, given the time and energy that’s been devoted to launch and facilitate other program offerings and to build the administrative structure and form necessary for the future flourishing of Flourish! That said, relationships with many of the leaders in other cities have blossomed and deepened and we have access to the resources and curricula they have developed to draw from when we establish our program. During the past fiscal year, Melanie Saint James and Dan Wodrich have started contacting, gathering and reviewing the curricula from other centers such as the Cascade Fellows in Seattle; the Gotham Fellows in New York City; the New City Fellows in Raleigh, NC; the 5280 Fellows in Denver; Framework Fellows from the Center for Faith + Work in LA; et al. The annual rhythm for these other Fellows Programs typically involves an applicant review process in the Spring with the actual program running from September thru May.

### **Web Resources**



With the addition of Scott Johnson to our Flourish Board and team in the past fiscal year, we have been blessed with a person bringing gifts for helping us communicate better – via newsletters, brochures, and webpages. He also brings skill in audio and video recording technology and applications with experience in video vignette story-telling and the production of video-based educational resources. He has significantly improved our website – making video resources from our faith and science presentations easily accessible;

publicizing our Flourish offerings and calendar; providing a way for financial donations to Flourish be received via the web; among many other things. We look forward to his creation of video vignettes of persons wrestling with and experiencing the blessing of integration of their faith, work, and everyday living. In the months and years ahead with Scott's help and the contributions of our Flourish team members, we anticipate growing the number and types of resources we will make available and accessible via our webpages.

### **Additional Christian Education and Spiritual Formation Classes, Workshops, Retreats**



There are a wide variety of ways Flourish is being invited to come alongside to personally accompany, encourage, educate and equip those in our Mid-Columbia community who are seeking an integration of faith, work, and everyday living. A few examples in the past fiscal year include:

- Spiritual Formation coaching of 9 leaders within the Central Church family, both pastors and lay members of the congregation. Members of the Flourish team have led and facilitated 8 meetings of the group during the past fiscal year. We also collaborated with Imago Christi to co-host a 3-day Spiritual Formation Discovery retreat. NWUP Church graciously offered and shared their facilities for the blessing of Central Church. How beautiful when brothers and sisters get along and share with one another what they've been given for the common good!
- Flourish has hosted small theology discussion groups on Tuesday evenings at G4H Christian College and on Fridays during lunch in the Flourish office at NWUP. In addition to going through the ReFrame course together, participants have been blessed by the "Godspeed" video resource produced by former Regent College students, Matt & Julie Canlis. The groups have also been reading and chewing on the writings of Professors Tom and James Torrance, including their books, "The Mediation of Christ," and "Worship, Community, and the Triune God of Grace," respectively.
- Flourish team members have been influential in encouraging local churches to engage and utilize the Imago Christi Spiritual Formation paradigm book entitled, "Mansions of the Heart," by Dr. Tom Ashbrook. Richland Lutheran Church, Central Church, and NWUP Church are incorporating (or are considering incorporating) this resource into their small group training and accompaniment.
- In the past fiscal year, Flourish team members were invited to help plan, lead, and speak at an out-of-town retreat for the men of Richland Lutheran Church, scheduled for September 2019.
- After being blessed by Flourish accompaniment in their use of the ReFrame resource, NWUP Church leadership requested assistance in choosing suitable resources for their Fall 2019 adult education offerings.

## **Administry Accomplishments (since incorporation in March 2018)**

- Filed Articles of Incorporation with WA Secretary of State on March 20, 2018.
- Held initial meeting of Board of Directors to identify and approve Officers, to name and hire an Executive Director, and to establish bank accounts with suitable accountability and oversight.
  - Founding Board Members
    - Dr. James Morris, President – from inception to present.
    - Steve Ernst, Vice-President – from inception to present.
    - Dr. Cameron Hohimer, Treasurer – from inception to June 2019.
    - Dan Wodrich, Executive Director and Board Secretary (non-voting) – from inception to present.
  - Other Board Changes and Additions
    - Rick Donahoe, Treasurer – service from June 2018 to October 2018.
    - Scott Johnson, Treasurer – service from October 2018 to present.
    - Dr. Melanie Saint James – service from October 2018 to present.
- Set-up payroll and accounting/bookkeeping system (Quicken); transitioned to QuickBooks.
- Created Flourish branding logo and tagline graphics
- Began receiving donations from individuals and local churches.
- Approved “Accountable Reimbursement Policy” for employees and Board members (May 2018).
- Purchased office and educational equipment and supplies.
- Prepared and issued Corporation ByLaws (June 2018).
- Established and maintained a Corporate Record Book.
- Obtained Federal Employee Identification Number from the IRS.
- Set-up accounts and began filing quarterly reports and paying fees to WA State Labor & Industries, Employment Security Department, and Department of Revenue.
- Registered with WA State Corporation and Charities Division; filed annual report.
- Approved “Conflict of Interest” policy for employees and Board members (October 2018).
- Obtained Office space
  - Generously provided by Richland Lutheran Church (April to September 2018).
  - Generously provided by NW United Protestant Church (September 2018 to present).
- Obtained Classroom and Meeting Space
  - Generously provided by Gather4Him Christian College (Fall 2018 to present).
- Obtained IRS 501(c)(3) federal tax-exempt status (April 2019).
- Prepared and submitted Annual Report (990 Form) to IRS for fiscal year ending July 31, 2018.
- Established Flourish website.
- Established capability to receive online donations via Flourish website.
- Purchased audio/video recording equipment to create and share educational presentations via Flourish website.
- Created and distributed periodic Flourish newsletters.
- Created Facebook page and began using as social media platform for communication.
- Designed, purchased, and mounted building signage at NW United Protestant Church.

## **FINANCE REPORT**

The Lord has richly blessed Flourish Mid-Columbia through the gracious giving of a growing number of financial donors – both individuals as well as churches. We are truly thankful for these donors – for their incredible generosity and partnership with us.

In addition, our Lord has provided for us with wise and skilled persons with gifts in financial accounting and bookkeeping to safeguard and steward the resources He is providing us with. Flourish is deeply grateful for the following persons who have advised and helped us with various aspects of our tax reporting, accounting and bookkeeping needs:

- Wayne Vinson, CPA, Spokane
- Ginnette Ernst, SIGN Fracture Care Controller
- Sharon Isaacson, former Finance Office staff at West Side Church
- Diane Pratt, Finance Office staff at West Side Church
- Cameron Hohimer, Board Treasurer
- Rick Donahoe, Board Treasurer
- Scott Johnson, Board Treasurer
- Brandon Oswalt, Oswalt Financial Services

During the past fiscal year, Flourish Mid-Columbia transitioned its financial recordkeeping to a QuickBooks Online account. Brandon Oswalt has played a key role in this transition, in service to and under the oversight of our Board Treasurer, Scott Johnson. Brandon has prepared Financial statements which are available upon request. Please contact Scott Johnson, Treasurer, if interested.