

# PRESIDENT'S

## Report

### MISSION-MINDED = HEAVED-MINDED

Much has happened in our conference over the past two months. In my last report, I mentioned our Mission Ignition event. This event featured our department directors presenting their plans to fulfill our initiative to seek out One More for Jesus.

What a blessing these presentations were! As each director shared their plans with clear goals and objectives, I couldn't help but reflect what great work they are doing to help our Conference bring in One More.

Now it is time to share this message with our churches and members. We know that our time on earth is short. Jesus is returning soon! What can each of us do to bring One More to His kingdom?

I want to share with you two stories of how some of our churches are working towards One More. These stories were also shared recently with our Executive Committee. Slavik Ostapenko, who provides leadership among our Slavic churches in Spokane, is having tremendous success reaching individuals worldwide through his Youtube ministry.

His small Slavic-speaking church has received more than 280,000 views with more than 60 million impressions. These are impressive numbers and show how God is working through technology.

Jason Worf, our pastor up in Bonner's Ferry, Idaho, has an amazing story about a couple that recently moved to the area. In their move, they stumbled upon an old George Vandeman book, "Planet in Rebellion." It sparked an interest and they started doing their research. The couple is now scheduled to be baptized this Spring!

God is so good. He is always winning. The Lord is unstoppable!

As COVID numbers start decreasing rapidly over the next few months, pray for our churches that they continue to assemble safely. There is so much to be excited about. How will God work in your life to bring One More to Him? May we all continue to be Heaven-minded!



M I N N E R   L A B R A D O R   J R .



42

student increase since  
October for UCC schools

%

18

increase in tithe compared  
to first quarter 2020

YouTube

280k

global views for Slavic  
church sermons in 2020



## ACTIONS TAKEN AT 4.29.21 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Administration update**

- Rodney Mills, UCC vice president for administration, shared that during the month of March, Minner Labrador, UCC president; Allee Currier, UCC vice president for finance; and himself scheduled time to meet individually with each pastor. Despite the current restrictions churches have been working with, many great opportunities for ministry have occurred.
- Pastor Slavik Ostapenko shared a report from his highly successful Youtube ministry. Based on analytics from the past year, videos from his small Slavic-speaking church in Spokane have received more than 60 million impressions, resulting in more than 280 thousand views. Sermons from his church have received more than 55 thousand viewing hours.
- Pastor Jason Worf gave a report of a couple that recently moved to Idaho who discovered an Adventist book during their move. Through many God-led incidents, the couple are currently scheduled to be baptized this Spring.
- It was voted to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2021, Executive Committee.

**Financial update**

- Allee Currier, UCC vice president for finance, presented an update on conference finances.
- God has continued to bless the work in the Conference as tithe has experienced an 18 percent increase compared first quarter of 2020.
- The 2019 General Conference Auditing Service Report was presented, showing that “the overall financial statements are fairly represented.” This is an excellent report and demonstrates that our accounting practices are within policy with no significant adjustments needed.
- It was voted to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2021, Administrative and Finance Committee.

- It was voted to receive the January, February, and March 2021 Finance Reports, subject to audit.
- It was voted to receive the 2019 General Conference Auditing Service Report to Governance.
- It was voted to accept the minutes of the April 1, 2021 Financial & Statistical Review Committee.

**Education update**

- Brian Harris, UCC vice president for education, gave an update on current enrollment and personnel changes across the conference for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Enrollment across the conference is strong. There are currently 42 more students enrolled in school than the Conference had as of October 1.
- Schools across the conference are forecasting substantial growth for the 2021-2022 school year.
- The education department is deep into personnel season, working to rehire more than 150 administrators, teachers and staff members. One significant change is for the position of principal at Upper Columbia Academy, as Eric Johnson has decided to move into health care work on the East Coast.
- It was voted to acknowledge Eric Johnson and the work he has done during his time as principal of Upper Columbia Academy.
- Eric Johnson gave a report on Upper Columbia Academy. Students and staff are back on campus with no further positive cases of COVID, following an outbreak upon return from spring break.
- Conference administration has authorized the use of the camp meeting big tent for the spring music concerts, gymnastics home show, and graduation weekend activities.
- Enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year at Upper Columbia Academy looks strong with 233 currently registered. Enrollment will be capped at 275 students to ensure the best student-to-staff ratio.

## INCOMING/TRANSFERRING PASTORS



**Cary Fry**  
Pastor  
Kennewick

## ACTIVE PASTORAL SEARCHES

- Inchelium/Kettle Falls/Northport
- All Nations/Granger/Zillah
- Dayton/Stateline
- Deary/Endicott/Troy
- Pendleton/Pilot Rock

