

## **"Jump In!": A Greeting from the Acting Conference Minister**

Wherever Jesus and the disciples traveled, there was always something to do. Someone to meet. Stories to learn. Lives to come alongside and witness (and often participate in) transformation. As we all experience, that's what ministry looks like even to this day, and as your acting conference minister, it is my joy and a true blessing to walk alongside you for this phase of your journey as the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ!

A conference minister is, at our best, a guide and sometimes coach to clergy, congregations, and the Board of Directors. Our role is one of influence more than authority. A listening ear and a bridge to resources from across the denomination. And these are my goals for our time together. To be in relationship with you across the conference, as one who shares good news, gathers your stories, and helps us to facilitate strong, positive, upbuilding communication as we continue to live into our highest ideals as the body of Christ.

To that end, I will be traveling across the conference for the first time next week, February 5-12, and hope to connect with as many as possible. Additionally, I am available via [Calendly](#) for conversation as your schedule allows. Initially, this scheduler has virtual and telephone appointments, but stay tuned - as I can iron out my travel schedule for the next few months, in a week or two, I will make times available for in-person conversations we can schedule in advance.

Whether it's working with a search committee, consulting with a church council, conversing with a pastor, or visiting with a conference committee, my goal and role is to be approachable and accessible and to jump in and celebrate with you the good work that God is bringing about through your shared ministry as the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Blessings,

Phil