

Thank you for taking on the Pentecost Project this summer! What an exciting time for the church! In case you want to really celebrate your participants, a commissioning specifically for the people participating in the Pentecost Project might be as follows:

Invite everyone forward who is participating in the Project. Warn them in advance that you'll be asking the following of them so they can prepare and write it down if necessary. Ask each of them, in two sentences (encourage them to keep it brief so everyone can share), to share with the congregation the following: "The brokenness or fragmentation I observed in our church's community is _____. My Pentecost Project will bring healing and wholeness by _____." (E.g. "The brokenness I see in our neighborhood is how many homeless people there are. My Pentecost Project will bring healing by making sandwiches and taking them into the neighborhood every Saturday morning this summer.")*

Once all have shared, the leader can offer a blessing like this to the participants:

The participants in the Pentecost Project are our church's ambassadors to the community—they carry this church's love into the neighborhood, into places we can't all be at once. They are recreating the work of the early church, whose ministry was often one-on-one with people in need, focused on offering Christ, comfort and justice to those who had none of those things.

These three months will transform our neighborhood, and they will transform our congregation, too! That is a sign of how much God loves us, and that is a sign of how much God loves the people outside these doors. Let us open our hearts to God's Pentecost Spirit creating a brand new and yet ancient thing through our commitment to the Pentecost Project!

Participants, repeat after me: *(pause after each line for the group to repeat)*

God has placed us in this neighborhood for a reason!

We are responding to God's placement!

For these three months

We pray for God's guidance.

For these three months

We pray for those whose lives we will touch.

For these three months

We pray for our own lives to be touched.
May the Holy Spirit move through us;
May we create healing and wholeness;
May our souls be renewed
May God's love change lives
And may none of us be the same by September!

(Turning to those in the congregation who are not participating)

Congregants, repeat after me:
You are our ambassadors in this neighborhood.
We are proud that God has called you to this work!
For these three months
We will pray for you.
For these three months
We will encourage you.
For these three months
We will support you.
May God's spirit move through you;
May God's love touch those you touch;
May God's compassion touch us in this church.
And may none of you
And none of us
Be the same by September!

A great song to use following this commissioning would be "Here I Am, Lord," #452

(If your congregation has elders, it would be a beautiful act of consecration to ask the elders to either anoint the Pentecost Project participants with oil, whispering the prayer "May God strengthen you and guide you in transforming this neighborhood" or placing ribbon stoles around their necks, whispering the prayer "May God use your servant heart to transform this neighborhood," allowing participants to sit once prayed for.)

If your church is comfortable with responsive readings, a great benediction for the worship service would be the "Litany of Ministry," #451 in the Chalice Hymnal.

Another neat way to send people out is to remind ALL of them that every single one of them carries God's light into the community in every interaction they have with people in their day-to-day lives, and God deeply wants them to continue shining that light in the neighborhood. As you close worship with "This little light of mine," give everyone a tea candle to look at and light over this summer as a reminder that they are shining a light in the darkness through whatever participation they have in the Pentecost Project.

**If there is room in your congregation and physical abilities allow for this, make a circle with all of the participants lined up together so they can present one after the other without those who can't participate feeling inferior in some way.*

the PENTECOST PROJECT



Purpose: To jumpstart (or continue or breathe new life into) the missional* ministries of each person in the Christian Churches of Northern California-Nevada. To inspire (or re-inspire) one another with the work God does through us as individuals and congregations. To support one another in our efforts to be God's love in an aching world.

**missional is a fancy word for "ministry borne of relationship and partnership with people in our community."*

Timeline

Winter 2010 **Geographic Area Meetings** (Thanks to you all for letting regional staff share!)

Feb. 17-April 4 **Regional Lenten Devotional** on the theme of *MISSION!*
(Thanks to seminarian Marge Boyd for editing)

April 23-25 **ANNUAL MEETING!** With the theme:

This Annual Meeting will have a Missional theme, and people will be invited to prepare for the Pentecost Project in their own local congregations and also to get their congregations ready for the project. *The goal will be to have as many individuals name and claim a personal mission effort or project.*



May **Promotion and Preparation**
(Churches across the region help their local church members discern God's call to each of them regarding a personal mission effort)

May 23 and 30 **Pentecost New Church Offering!** The missional approach of New Churches will be the focus

June 6 Local congregations can **dedicate Pentecost offering AND officially launch The Pentecost Project.** Each person or small group accepting God's call to a personal mission project is commissioned. In the worship service. (Others could make such a decision later and be commissioned as well)

June-Sept. **Individuals and churches live out their Missional ministries!**
(Possibly also a summer **Geographical Area gathering** where one or two persons from churches who have committed to The Pentecost Project, would share how their projects are going and begin discussing what it would look like for their "Geographical Area" to become a "Mission Cluster.")

September 12 or 19 **Huge celebrations of the the Pentecost Project** get held in local congregations, lifting up the missional involvement of all those members who have accepted the challenge of a personal mission, sharing those stories in worship.

THE PENTECOST PROJECT
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Northern CA-NV
MATCH GAME!

In choosing a mission project, experience, or event you may wonder questions like these:

- ... “Do I really have any skills that I could in mission?”
- ... “I really don’t have much time available, can I still do something?”
- ... “Do I need a lot of money to adopt some mission effort?”
- ... “Do I have to do this mission work all on my own?”
- ... “What can I do? I don’t have any idea!”

To get you started, simply read this list of talents/skills/hobbies and draw a line from each one to a real live mission project/experience/effort that could become YOUR MISSION!

Talent/Skill/Hobby

Mission

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. carpentry | fix old bikes for abused children |
| 2. cooking | organize a neighborhood park painting party |
| 3. gardening | volunteer at a soup kitchen |
| 4. technology | volunteer with Special Olympics |
| 5. singing | Habitat for Humanity |
| 6. handicrafts | tutor needy students |
| 7. teaching | adopt a retiree with no family |
| 8. writing | help a non-profit with their website |
| 9. athletic | form a singing group to visit homebound |
| 10. painting | make favors for a hospital or care facility |
| 11. I just love people | sponsor a writing contest at a teen center |
| 12. I just like to tinker | start a community garden |

How to **keep the momentum going!**

- ◆ During the week of August 8, there will be geographic area gatherings in the evenings where people from congregations in the area can share what's happening as a result of their Pentecost Projects!

How to **celebrate** the Pentecost Project:

- ◆ On a Sunday in September, use the whole service for testimonies from people about their experiences with their particular Pentecost Project! (A possible order of worship will be provided.) (September 12 or 19)

We hope that the Pentecost Project will help your congregation catch fire for Missional ministry.* Being in the midst of God's children outside the church can be really inspiring! We can't wait to hear the stories and learn from all of you during an inspiring, exciting summer!

** "Missional" is a fancy word for listening to God as a congregation and being in relationship with the community. Missional churches know their community and know God, and serve their community and serve God, and listen to their community and listen to God.*

the PENTECOST PROJECT



Coordinator's guide

How to help your
congregation catch fire...

And how to fan the flames!



Christian Churches of Northern
California-Nevada

Thanks for serving to coordinate the PENTECOST PROJECT in your congregation!

Here's a few things you can do to **promote** the Pentecost project:

- ◆ Show the FCC Louisville video in church! (early May)
<http://wholenesscafe.disciples.org/Resources/StoriesofWholeness/tabid/664/Default.aspx>
- ◆ Take time during a “Moment for Mission” to have the congregation play “The Match Game” (mid-May) (attached in this document)
- ◆ Tell the congregation about the Pentecost Project around the region and give them all copies of “How to be a Pentecost Project Participant!” (mid-May) (attached)
- ◆ Have an after-church gathering for everyone who's interested, and have them brainstorm together in small groups around the “How to be a Pentecost Project Participant” flyer and get them started filling out the “Pentecost Project Planning Form.” (late May)

Here's a few things you can do to **launch** the Pentecost Project:

- ◆ Two weeks beforehand, start collecting copies of “Pentecost Project Planning Forms” from congregants. Get a few folks to call members to see if they have questions and to make sure everyone has the opportunity to participate (from ages 3 through 103). Find a few folks willing to brainstorm with people who might be stuck. Collect those forms so you can check in with people to support them during the summer.
- ◆ One week beforehand, publish a list of all the folks and their projects to start getting the congregation excited, and if anyone's still struggling with an idea, maybe this will inspire them to do something, too!
- ◆ On June 6, carve out time in worship for a commissioning service for all the folks doing the Pentecost Project! (this resource will be available online in early May)

the PENTECOST PROJECT



is coming!!!

This summer,
every single person
in every single congregation
in the Christian Churches
(Disciples of Christ)
of Northern California
is invited...

- ◆ to claim a project as an individual or family or small group that will help create healing in your neighborhood
- ◆ to discover the joy of giving to and receiving from brothers and sisters in our neighborhood
- ◆ to partner with an organization in your community to make a difference in people's lives this summer
- ◆ to take on something that will help people who are suffering
- ◆ to do God's work in the world and to be a part of a congregation doing God's work in the world!

The Pentecost Project is really simple:

-In June, churches all over the region will commission members of their churches who have chosen to take on a mission project in their community.

-June, July and August, each member will do that project! It could be anything that creates healing in the community:

- ◆ Starting a math tutoring program at a nearby school
- ◆ Collecting socks for the local emergency room
- ◆ Organizing a group to plant twenty trees in the neighborhood
- ◆ Putting on a community health fair
- ◆ Coordinating a blood drive
- ◆ Providing lunches to kids who aren't in school
- ◆ Creating a garden labyrinth for the community
- ◆ Organizing an e-waste recycling drive for the neighborhood
- ◆ Promoting HIV testing in the community
- ◆ Getting the neighborhood together to make hygiene kits for Haiti or another country in need
- ◆ Sponsoring a neighborhood concert for charity

-In September, people can share testimonies about their experiences in a celebratory worship service!

That's all there is to it! ***And make LOTS of room for what the Holy Spirit will do here as a result!***

For more details, contact _____, the Pentecost Project Coordinator at your church. And watch for more information in the newsletter and in church!

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How to be a PENTECOST PROJECT PARTICIPANT!

There's only a few basic guidelines to help you get started:

- Look around the immediate neighborhood and ask, "Where is there hurt or brokenness or need?"
- Once you've found an example, ask, "How can I heal that hurt or brokenness or need?"
- Think about how your ministry can become a reality: identify your needs. (Volunteers, connections, funding, etc.)
- If you're still struggling to imagine how this can happen, contact _____ to help you make this project a reality!



You may already have a project in mind. If so, GREAT!!!!
If not, here are a few ideas to get you started!

Possible PENTECOST PROJECT undertakings:

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>POSSIBLE CONTACT</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Books for Children's Hospital<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meals for underprivileged children in summer school<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coats for Homeless<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blood drive• Scarves for the homeless• Wheelchair Ramps for Low Income residents in need<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blanket collection<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Math tutoring• Hygiene kits• Tree planting project<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fixing bicycles• Home build• Financial services for the poor• Fixing computers for people in need	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children's hospital• Local school • Local shelters• Local Blood Bank• Local shelters• Rebuilding Together • Church World Service• Local school• Church World Service• Arbor Society• Local bicycle cooperative• Habitat for Humanity• Community development bank• Local Senior Center or Computer Club

Even better, contact an organization in the community whose mission you care a lot about. Ask them what they need. See if there's a way you can create a project to help meet their needs! Ask your pastor if there are organizations in the community s/he knows about that might need help.

Remember: the idea of the Pentecost Project is to blow the doors off the church and be out in the community! Don't be afraid to take on a project that puts you in the midst of folks who aren't involved in the church at all. It's only a three month commitment to start!

Pentecost Project Planning Form (June-August)



NAME: _____

The brokenness I see: _____

(be specific if there's A problem you see: Graffiti, hungry kids, No trees around, no Afterschool programs)

What my Pentecost Project will do to address the brokenness: _____

(be specific about a solution, including what can be done within three months, with a specific goal)

What I'll need to make it happen: _____

(money, volunteers, tools, equipment, space, partner organization)

Timeline: _____

I commit to an initial three-month project that helps people in my neighborhood or in the wider community. I commit to listening to God in the midst of this process. And I commit to sharing my experience with the congregation at the end of the project.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

(Please make two copies: one for the participant, one for the Pentecost Project Coordinator)