

**“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you shall BREAK FORTH into singing,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.” Isaiah 55:12**

We look forward to gathering with you at the Annual Meeting of the Pacific Northwest Conference April 27-29. Our theme this year, **“Breaking Forth”**, celebrates our ministry of building deeper relationships and growing vitality in our churches and communities.

We’ll gather this year at a familiar setting for some of us, the Conference Center in Yakima, but we will break out of some familiar patterns for meeting and carrying out the business of the conference. We will bring forward some of the unique ways that we gathered at our camps last year and provide more opportunities to connect with new people and address issues using the power we experience in community. We hope you can come take part!

We are blessed to have as our guest presenter ***Bishop Dwayne D. Royster***. Bishop Royster has served in pastoral ministry for the past 20 years and is the Minister Emeritus and founding Pastor of Living Water United Church of Christ in Philadelphia. He is currently serving as Political Director for People Improving Communities through Organizing (PICO). PICO believes in building a more just world by teaching people of faith how to build and exercise their own power to address the root causes of the problems they face. At the center of PICO’s model of faith-based community organizing is a belief in the potential for transformation – of people, institutions, and our larger culture.

As an advocate for preparing congregations for the ministry of availability, Bishop Royster is fond of saying that, "Ministry should not be limited to Sunday mornings. Sunday is a time of worship. Ministry should be done Monday thru Sunday on the bus stops, at the supermarkets, in workplaces, at soccer games, etc... Wherever people are..." Bishop Royster is a passionate speaker and preacher who will share his knowledge with us in both dynamic and practical ways.

We encourage anyone who is interested in forging new relationships, building power and promise in their local church, and transforming institutions to register for this gathering, even if you’re not an official delegate. It will be time well spent in faithful community.

We hope you’ll join us!

Peter Ilgenfritz
Moderator

Wendy Blight
Assistant Moderator

Mike Denton
Conference Minister

Courtney Stange-Tregear
Minister of Church Vitality