

UCCW Welcomes a New Ministry Partner!

You may have noticed a drum set in the sanctuary. On Sunday afternoons, you may have met some new people as they set up for worship. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, you might notice a number of children, youth, and adults joining together for Bible study and prayer. Yes, we have a new partner! Iglesia de Dios Manantial de Vida, or Church of God Abundant Life, began ministering with us just a few short weeks ago. Their pastor is Leo Herrera. Originally from Costa Rica, Pastor Leo is thankful for the opportunity to be housed in UCCW's facilities for their congregation's ministry. I hope that many of you will take the opportunity to meet him, his wife, and their three sons. Much thanks to Steve Daley who helped to make this happen.

Iglesia de Dios Manantial de Vida is affiliated with the Church of God, a Christian Church organization with U.S. headquarters in Anderson, Indiana. From their historical documents:

The Church of God began in 1881 as a movement emphasizing the unity of God's people and holy living. Daniel S. Warner and several associates sought to forsake denominational hierarchies and formal creeds, trusting solely in the Holy Spirit as their overseer and the Bible as their statement of belief. These individuals saw themselves at the forefront of a movement to restore unity and holiness to the church. Their aim was not to establish another denomination but to promote primary allegiance to Jesus Christ so as to transcend denominational loyalties.

Deeply influenced by Wesleyan theology and Pietism, the church's generally accepted teachings include the divine inspiration of Scripture; forgiveness of sin through the atonement of Jesus Christ and repentance of the believer; the experience of holiness; the personal return of Christ, unconnected with any millennial reign; the kingdom of God as established here and now; the resurrection of the dead; and a final judgment in which there will be reward for the righteous and punishment for the wicked.

The Church of God, much like our United Church of Christ, is congregational in its government. Each local church is autonomous. Ministers meet voluntarily at state, regional, and national assemblies, and other associations. In North America, the General Assembly, composed primarily of ministers but also including lay congregational delegates, meets in connection with the movement's annual North American Convention held in Anderson, Indiana. There are approximately 2,200 congregations in the United States and Canada. Worldwide, the COG movement works in eighty-nine countries and territories representing approximately 7,500 churches and more than 1.1 Million believers. For more info, you may find it all here: <http://www.chog.org/>

Please join in welcoming all the members of this community of faith. Keep them in your prayers, and let's see what opportunities we have to serve together!

Bienvenido