

Oaks-West Church of Christ  
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To the Elders of the Oaks-West congregation:

January 3, 2021

I hope that this message finds you all well this New Year. Thank you for the support you provided for the work here in Hillsboro.

**The Church:** We are holding steady with 36 members, down ten from 2021. We are still without overseers (since spring of 2021), and at the moment we only have one person qualified to serve. The congregation currently meets in a leased building, which is in a good location but lacks an office and a baptistery. Overall we are blessed with that greatest of circumstances: peace and the absence of division. The brethren here are committed to persevering and growing in 2022. These three hurdles (organization, membership, and location of assembly) are the opportunities we have to work on in 2022.

Our (ten year) lease on our building comes to an end in May. We have reached out to our landlord and hope to discuss an extension on this lease. If we cannot do this, we are also looking for properties that we might be able to rent or lease for our assembly. Property is quite expensive here, so having a place to assemble is a large part of our expense as a congregation. As well, many of the options used in the past (meeting in schools, etc.) are restricted due to COVID. Much of this work has fallen to me, as the original members who set up the lease are no longer with us. This has proven to be more difficult than initially expected.

In a recent meeting of the men it was decided that for 2022 we will continue to meet Sunday morning and Wednesday evening for Bible study, and Sunday morning for worship. I have requested to end the Sunday evening online classes for this year. I will be doing more in person classes Sunday afternoons.

One of our members, a young man named Luis, was in Mexico for most of December, and has recently found out that for medical reasons he will need to stay through February. Another new convert with whom I have had a weekly study is moving to Idaho this week. Right now it does not seem that we will be losing any more members to moves away from the area, the main reason we saw such a drop of our membership.

As always, I encourage you to please visit our website, [www.SunsetchurchofChrist.net](http://www.SunsetchurchofChrist.net). Each sermon I present is formatted to a one page article, the video of the sermon, audio only of the sermon, and PowerPoint slides. As well, I maintain a FAQ and a downloadable E-Tract rack with common questions presented to us on various issues.

**Preaching:** Here are the lessons I presented in December. We had bad weather on December 26 that forced us to cancel our services.

DATE	LESSON TOPIC
December 5	Daniel 5 and Accountability
December 12	Daniel 6 and Civil Disobedience
December 19	Daniel 7 and the Kingdom

Several of the regional congregations are without evangelists at this time. The congregation in nearby Forest Grove is looking for an evangelist, and I have offered to fill their pulpit on Sunday evenings when I am available.

**Teaching:**

- In Services:

- Sunday morning - I am still teaching *the Gospel of John*
- Wednesday – I teaching a new series on *Spiritual Growth* with in-house material

- Outside Services:

- I have added yet another study with a young man who is dating one of our members. Our member who moved to Idaho has asked that I continue studying with him via online means. I now have six weekly studies
- I have arranged to start a Young Adult Bible Study with the evangelist at a nearby congregation once a month for the young adults in the area. This begins January 30
- I have one monthly men’s Bible study and one monthly young adult Bible study (online)

**Our Family:** December was a good month for the Haines family. Our son Grant is settling into his new job he started in November at a web developing company, and our daughter Darya (a computer science student at Portland State University) began a new term (Jan. 3) in school while working in the IT department. Right now they are both living at home, but we expect Grant to be moving out once he is established in his work. Wendi and I are well; we recently celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Wendi’s parents live in the area, while my parents live in New Mexico. We were able to visit them for Thanksgiving.

If there is any additional information that either the overseers or the members of the congregation would be interested in, please let me know. Again, I am so very grateful for your support of my work here in Oregon.

Brotherly,

*Brian, Wendi, Grant and Darya Haines*