Quick Reflection & A Year Ahead

It’s hard to believe that my family and I arrived 6 months ago. The time has flown by and the experiences of meeting so many great new folks have been an absolute delight. There are so many people to thank for the warm and gracious welcome but a special thanks to Mike Denton who has been especially great in this season of transition.

There is also much to celebrate from the work done on behalf of Pilgrim Firs in 2015. The Outdoor Ministries task force stepped up in huge ways and much of that heavy lifting was from Katy Lloyd & Kristen Almgren – thank you! Mark Boyd filled a vacuum of leadership and continues to serve as a great colleague and mentor in the workings of the conference and camping ministry – gratitude abounds!

The year ahead is also filled with the expectancy of more grand new adventures for our family as well as Pilgrim Firs and the Pacific Northwest Conference.

Pilgrim Firs is looking at growth this coming year as we will be hosting several new groups (along with a high retention rate of previous groups) that plan to include a Young Adult Our Whole Lives sexuality retreat (March 4-6), a summer Samoan UCC youth group camp, a group of retired adults that will utilize the location of Pilgrim Firs to explore the Peninsula, a few new recovery groups and a large banjo camp weekend! In all these new groups and usages of the camp, we will need to also examine what our core mission is as an Outdoor Ministry site of the conference and how does our usage and dollars live into the ministry God is calling us into.

The year of 2016 will be filled with some small but mighty site upgrades that are needed for Pilgrim Firs - as well as some items that will be finished started this past year. The manager’s house renovation is coming to a near completion and should be ready by late January, new mattresses are in the works with a small campaign soon to start, the beach area will have a new look with additional kayaks, life vests and some new water toys, and hopefully some needed renovations at Huckleberry that would increase comfort and utilization rates.

This season at Pilgrim Firs is filled with hope and expectancy for a great new year. May you also be filled with the hope of this new year finding ways to share that hope that bring more peace and joy into this world.

In service with you,

Wade Zick
Pilgrim Firs Managing Director