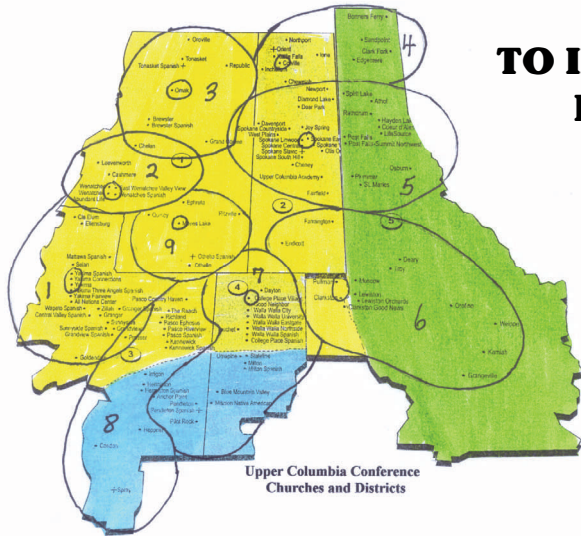


PLAN EMERGES TO INVOLVE MORE SENIORS IN SAGE ACTIVITIES



SAGE has been a force for good in the Upper Columbia Conference. We have done several projects for local and distant churches, schools and community centers. We would be even more effective for good if we could share the joy of spiritual growth, adventure, fellowship and service with more SAGERS in the UCC.

Because you are reading this article in the SAGE newsletter there is a good chance that you have some knowledge of SAGE and its purpose. For example you may know that SAGE:

- Has been active in the UCC since 2002
- Its purpose is to keep senior folk in the UCC connected and active.
- Objectives are to promote spiritual growth, fellowship, adventure and service among the Seniors of UCC.

You may not know that there are 121 churches in UCC and that we send out nearly 600 newsletters to members every quarter.

UCC is BIG!! As indicated by the above map it covers over half of Washington, the northeast corner of Oregon and northern Idaho. This area is approximately 280 miles north to south and 260 miles west to east. This presents challenges for SAGERS in smaller, remote churches who would like to participate in SAGE events but find that most of them occur in the larger churches in population centers. As a result many SAGERS have not experienced the blessing of being connected to other SAGERS. The operating Board of SAGE has struggled to devise a plan to reach more local churches and to encourage participation. We have not been very successful in meeting the challenges of distance and number of churches.

At last we believe a plan is emerging that will help to solve these problems and to get more seniors involved in SAGE events.

The emerging plan is as follows:

- Divide UCC into nine regions so that all, or most, churches will be within 100 miles of a hub church. The hub church will be selected by the churches in each region.
- From within each region a regional representative will be selected whose duties will be to organize SAGE activities in that region.
- These activities could include potluck meals, picnics, an annual corn feed, an auction, social/game nights, banquets, musical programs, vespers, and bird watching/adventure trips. Last but not least would be to organize local church or community help projects, which is a major objective of SAGE.
- The next step is to conduct an information and organizational meeting in each region with the intent of setting this plan in motion. One of the major churches in the Yakima area has agreed to host such a meeting in the near future.

This plan is already in place and working well at Moses Lake and College Place. We feel confident that it can work in other places as well.

*Getting around
to all the regions will
take time
—-but
you will be hearing
from us!*

