

## CAMP ADAMS ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Times of transition are always filled with emotion. There can be anxiety, hope, grief, anticipation, and many other responses. This past year has been a time of transition as the Conference received the notice that Natalie and Bob Becker were leaving and action was taken to secure leadership for Camp Adams.

When the camp manager position was posted in February, 2023, it was the same day that June Boutwell, newly retired to Portland, was scheduled to meet Tyler for lunch as a new pastor to the conference. The conversation that day resulted in June taking the position of transitional camp manager on March 1, 2023. The first item of business was hiring a facilities manager. The position was advertised within the conference and two candidates emerged. The person hired, Alaquinte Moonfeather, began on April 1, 2023.

The spring was a busy time as we reopened buildings and tried to ramp up for summer camp on a schedule that was about three months later than normal all the while looking through files and notebooks to get a sense of day-to-day operations with no opportunity for orientation to the site and its ministries. We held a work party June 3<sup>rd</sup> with 28 people helping to install the floating bridge and reline the campfire pit among other tasks.

Summer camp registrations totaled 109 campers. This was comparable to 2022 which saw a modified camp structure as COVID precautions were still in effect. This year we were able to offer a return to traditional camp which was welcomed by returning campers, directors, counselors and volunteers. All reports are that the camp season was a success.

Summer staff was a challenge this year. Normally staff is mostly confirmed by the end of January but that obviously was not the case this year. The two years of COVID inactivity had an enormous impact on leadership development as normally our resident summer staff rises from high school campers who go on to counsel and then work as paid staff at camp. When that cycle was disrupted, it created a vacuum in leadership. Every attempt was made to secure staff but, in the end, the summer season was grossly understaffed as we were not able to find a full complement of resident staff and were unable to hire a lifeguard or cooks. We also were unable to find chaplains and nurses for most weeks of camp. And at the end of the first week of camp, the facilities manager and one of our two resident staff were terminated. That left the camp manager, one resident staff member, one full time kitchen assistant, and a part time cook's assistant to manage all the activities at camp. Thankfully, we were able to find contract lifeguards among campers and previous staff and volunteers.

Many thanks to directors Kris Dowell, Pam Rossio, and Becca Rewinski for helping staff learn the ropes and taking up responsibilities that normally fell to staff. We continued to use the curriculum model of "Forests, Meadows, Trails, and Creeks" to tell the story of Camp Adams and help our guests understand our responsibility to care for creation. Summer camp would

not have happened without the many volunteers that stepped up to help in the kitchen, do cleaning of cabins and lodges, building maintenance, and grounds work. That love and spirit has sustained Camp Adams for generations and is a part of the energy that surrounds and permeates life in the forest.

Careful attention was paid to making sure that all service providers and vendors were contacted and that required inspections were conducted. We are on schedule with our water system testing, sewage treatment system, health inspection, and fire inspection. The new fire pit was approved by the Oregon Department of Forestry so that we are now able to burn year-round with the exception of red zone days. We have also had the challenge course inspected and the chimneys inspected.

One of the major challenges of the summer was realizing the week before our health inspection that the walk-in cooler in the kitchen was not maintaining the proper temperature. That resulted in the rental of a cold box trailer for the summer camp season. Estimates are now being received from refrigeration contractors for work to be done in the spring to install a new condenser system. It is estimated that the cost will be in the range of \$12-15,000.

One of the other transition pieces was the appointment by the CPC Board of Directors in November 2022 of a new Camp Adams and Outdoor Ministry Team. That team was convened in March 2023 and is working hard to define their ministry and mission. You can see their report elsewhere. They have been carefully considering the role of the camp and the ministry to our congregations and the wider community and will be making some recommendations in the future. Right now they are working on a job description for a facilities manager with the intention that it be a search supported by our UCC Outdoor Ministry Association to find the best candidate who has a heart for this very special and complex ministry.

One of the other life-giving activities has been the return of local congregations to camp for church retreats, Sunday at Camp worship, and youth gatherings. We are always happy to share the story of our ministry with those who support that ministry. Thank you to all who have supported the camp with your contributions of labor, love, prayers, and funds. We are beginning the process to recruit for summer 2024 so please consider if you have a role at camp this coming summer or talk to others who share that care and concern for this vial ministry. Dates for Summer 2024 and volunteer and paid staff applications will be available on the campadams.org website soon.

Submitted by June Boutwell, Transitional Camp Manager