

REVISED Mission Plan for June 2016 - May 2018

Presbytery of Los Ranchos (PLR)

Approved by Presbytery on May 26, 2016

Context

Presbyteries are “responsible for...assisting and supporting the witness of congregations to the sovereign activity of God in the world, so that all congregations become communities of faith, hope, love, and witness” (G-3.03). This mission plan expresses our presbytery’s communal commitment to this work, as approved through the vote of our congregations’ representatives to presbytery.

The strength of the plan is its specificity. It includes strategies, objectives, and tools. Where a specific objective or tool is not optimal for a particular context, the presbytery will support an alternative option that provides similar benefit.

Vision

To be a community of flourishing congregations and partnerships that joyfully participate in God’s redemptive work through Jesus Christ in the world.*

Strategies and Objectives for June 2016 - May 2018

1. Invest in resources that help church leaders be effective in their unique contexts.
 - The presbytery will request sessions and New Missional Communities to commission at least one member to learn about the services of MissionInsite and to interpret the congregation’s context back to their congregation or New Missional Community.
 - The presbytery will provide assistance for all congregations (which have not recently completed one) to undertake a church assessment process that measures the health and vitality of the congregation, as well as equips the session with reliable information upon which to make strategic decisions about their congregation’s future.
 - SCT’s Healthy Congregations Team will identify skilled, experienced and specialized volunteer leadership from PLR’s transformational** congregations who are able and willing to assist other sessions in their efforts to increase their congregations’ missional effectiveness.
 - SCT’s Healthy Congregations Team will provide financial assistance, if needed, to congregational leaders who participate in training and/or coaching that provides practical tools for congregations to increase their missional effectiveness.
2. Steward the resources of the presbytery for organizing New Missional Communities*, and encouraging existing congregations in pursuing new missional endeavors.
 - PLR will become established as an incubator for New Missional Communities and pioneer leaders. Transformational Congregations** will seek to partner with New Missional Communities as “partner churches.”

The phrase “*and partnerships*” was added in 2018.

3. Collaborate effectively within a wider community of ethnic, linguistic, and theological diversity.
 - SCT and the Presbytery Gathering Team will resource and broker educational and fellowship events to bring communities from diverse ethnic backgrounds together to learn about each other's spiritual journeys and cultures, and how to network with each other for greater missional effectiveness.

Strategic Coordinating Team (SCT) Budget Guidelines

The mission plan is to be funded from the annually-approved SCT budget, as follows:

- 50%** for equipping sessions to lead their congregations in healthy, vital ministry.
- 25%** for organizing and leading New Missional Communities.
- 15%** for ministries the presbytery values but where no particular congregation takes initiative to coordinate.
- 10%** for Research & Development: new ideas where no expectations for self-sufficiency exists, but where the lessons learned will be vigorously shared with the rest of the presbytery.

Glossary

Current Ministry Context: We minister in a diverse, rapidly changing environment. Whether a congregation is newly forming or has existed for decades, our presbytery calls every congregation to grow in its awareness of its context, the people who live there, and the unique work that God is calling it to accomplish in that place.

***New Missional Communities:** Normally, these are initiated by a Transformational Congregation or a partnership of congregations as a specialized ministry. They may also arise as God stirs small teams of "pioneers" to organize a new ministry or community under the support and supervision of the presbytery.

****Transformational Congregations:** Those with significant history in an area with a strong sense of identity, mission, and a tradition of health and vitality. They demonstrate the capacity to consistently and meaningfully engage those outside the church. Furthermore, they form the backbone of the presbytery and provide resources of every kind. By doing so, they reinforce their own transformation and become living invitations to Christian discipleship.

Transitional Congregations: Those congregations which for a variety of internal and external factors require intentional revitalization and sometimes reinvention to thrive.