

**Strategies in Plain Language**  
**The Revised Mission Plan for June 2016 – May 2018**  
**Presbytery of Los Ranchos**

by Tom Cramer, Presbytery Leader for Vision and Mission

On May 26, 2016, the presbytery approved a Revised Mission Plan that includes strategies and objectives. It was a way of saying, “This is how we believe we can serve God best given who we are right now.” The **vision** is: *“To be a community of flourishing congregations that joyfully participate in God’s redemptive work through Jesus Christ in the world.”*

It benefits the presbytery for every leadership group, committee and congregation to understand this plan and to consider our respective roles in its implementation. To that end, I thought it would be helpful to render the plan’s strategies in plain language. The invitation to each of us is to understand the plan and to engage our passions and gifts to achieve its ends.

**Strategies Said a Different Way**

**1. The Art of Neighboring**

Who are our neighbors? (demographics, needs, longings, aspirations)

What makes us good neighbors? (Good Samaritan, sacrifice, solidarity, adaptability)

How can we tell? (congregational assessments that accurately evaluate the quality of our spiritual communities)

*“Invest in resources that help church leaders be effective in their unique contexts.”*

**2. The Art of Starting New Churches**

What do you need? (a comprehensive, integrated, supportive, and innovative approach to running disciplined experiments)

Who is involved? (discerners, church starters, established congregations)

What is the path? (partnerships, accountability, sustainability, chartering)

*“Steward the resources of the presbytery for organizing New Missional Communities, and encouraging existing congregations in pursuing new missional endeavors.”*

**3. The Art of Living, Loving and Serving God Together in a Diverse Community**

What unites us? (the gospel, the reconciling work of God, God’s artistry)

What can we learn from each other? (the art of dialogue, deep listening)

How can we benefit from each other’s strengths? (story telling, visitations, partnerships)

*Collaborate effectively within a wider community of ethnic, linguistic, and theological diversity...*