

NEW COMMISSIONER

Welcome Booklet

2021-2022



The Presbytery's Vision

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



Welcome to your first meeting of the Presbytery of Los Ranchos.

The presbytery understands itself to be a learning community. We hope this first-timer booklet will help you learn more about the presbytery's mission, its committees, and what to expect at this and future presbytery gatherings.

Inside you will find:

- Dates and locations of upcoming presbytery meetings
- Responsibilities and privileges of presbytery commissioners
- Privileges of visitors to a presbytery gathering
- Newly adopted Presbytery of Los Ranchos Mission statement
- Presbytery of Los Ranchos Organizational Chart
- Presbytery of Los Ranchos Committee and Team Descriptions
- Presbytery of Los Ranchos Moderators
- A list of presbytery and PC(USA) acronyms

The Presbytery Gathering Team (PGT) plans each presbytery gathering. Our goals are to:

- Gather God's people for worship.
- Accomplish the presbytery's business.
- Provide opportunities for learning.
- Sit at table and break bread with one another.
- Become a community of trust.
- Inspire and equip commissioners and congregations to work towards the kin-dom* of God here and now.

Each gathering of the presbytery will be unique. The theme, time, location, schedule, and speakers will vary. However, every gathering will include the following components:

- Worship
- Learning – speakers, workshops or some combination thereof
- Meal
- Business meeting

The Presbytery of Los Ranchos is a community of people, congregations, and partnerships. We are God's gathered and disbursed people. We are a community, which seeks to support, care for, and love one another. We are here to answer your questions, help you understand what is happening during the meeting and between meetings, and introduce you to your colleagues in ministry.

You are welcome here!

*<https://www.pcusa.org/news/2018/2/12/bible-study-ga223-will-explore-kin-dom-versus-king/>

2021 Meetings of the Presbytery of Los Ranchos

Thursday, February 25, 2021: Zoom Meeting, 4:00pm – 7:00pm (registration starts 3:00pm)
Saturday, May 22, 2021: Zoom Meeting, Time TBD
Thursday, September 30, 2021: TBD
Thursday, November 18, 2021: TBD

Commissioners to Presbytery with Voice and Vote

Commissioners to the Presbytery are comprised of the following:

- All Teaching Elders of the Presbytery of Los Ranchos
- All Commissioned Ruling Elders of the Presbytery of Los Ranchos
- Ruling Elders elected or assigned by their Session for the current year according to the Equalization Report approved at the February Presbytery meeting
- Ruling Elders on Council
- Ruling Elders on Trustees
- Certified Educators, if Ruling Elders, otherwise voice only, and only during their term of service in an educational ministry under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery.

If you are not sure of your status, please check with your Pastor or Clerk of Session. If you have questions, please call Carol Bridgeman at 714-956-3691, ext.125.

Information for Commissioners – for Zoom Presbytery Gatherings

Please join the business meeting up to 1 hour in advance (3:00pm Thursday meetings, 8:00am Saturday meetings). This will allow the hosts to make sure that all connections are working. Once you enter the meeting, please click on the arrow near your name and select “Rename.” Please rename yourself as follows:

First and Last Name (TE or RE) – Name of Church; for example: Ann Smith (RE) – Trabuco PC

All participants will be placed on mute for the duration of the meeting. The host will unmute you once you’ve clicked on “Raise Hand,” and the moderator has called on you to speak.

Korean Translation services will be available by phone, and the connection information will be sent with the Zoom login details on the morning of the meeting.

Obtaining recognition in order to speak

When you join the meeting, please click the “participants” tab at the bottom of your Zoom window. Doing this will show a list of those who are present in the meeting. It will also give you a “Raise Hand” button at the bottom of the panel.

You will be muted by default. If you want to speak to a motion, please click on the “Raise Hand” button in your participants’ list. The moderator will see the names of those who have raised their hands in the order that they clicked (your list will not necessarily appear in the same order). The moderator will call on the next person to speak to the motion and then unmute that person.

If you are calling in using a touch-tone phone (as a last resort), you can raise your virtual hand by dialing *9 during the call. The moderator will see that you are seeking to address the body.

NOTE: Please do *not* lower your hand. The moderator will lower it for you at the right time.

If you would like to join the email distribution list for presbytery information, please send your email/contact information to Debbie Haley at dhaley@losranchos.org. For information about the Presbytery, events, and Presbytery meetings, please visit our website at www.losranchos.org.

Presbytery Of Los Ranchos Mission Statement

At our September 2019 Gathering, the Presbytery adopted a new mission statement. Prior to this meeting, representatives of the Generative Catalyst Team engaged in conversations with various groups throughout the presbytery asking for input. They found these gathering fruitful and clarifying. This final revision of the mission statement was endorsed by the Council and adopted on September 28, 2019.

“God calls the Presbytery of Los Ranchos to cultivate vital congregations and partnerships that embody the love and justice of Jesus Christ.”

Commentary on the Mission Statement

“God calls ...”

We began with God’s initiative, partly because our tradition has always insisted that the work of creation and redemption begin with God’s sovereign initiative.

“Presbytery of Los Ranchos”

We explored many nouns to use as our subject, such as “God calls us to be a community, a body, a family, a council, network, union, companions, friends, collective, etc.” In the end, we felt that the word “presbytery” names the kind of body that can have the fellowship that is important to us and point to the specific work we have of holding one another accountable.

“cultivate vital”

Using an “optometrist approach” we narrowed a large field of potential verbs to one that captures the kind of sowing, weeding, watering, and harvesting work that the presbytery can exercise in our work. The idea is that our presbytery intentionally cultivates vitality in congregations and partnerships, not that PLR’s mission is exclusively for those congregations and partnerships that would already identify as “vital.”

“congregations and partnerships”

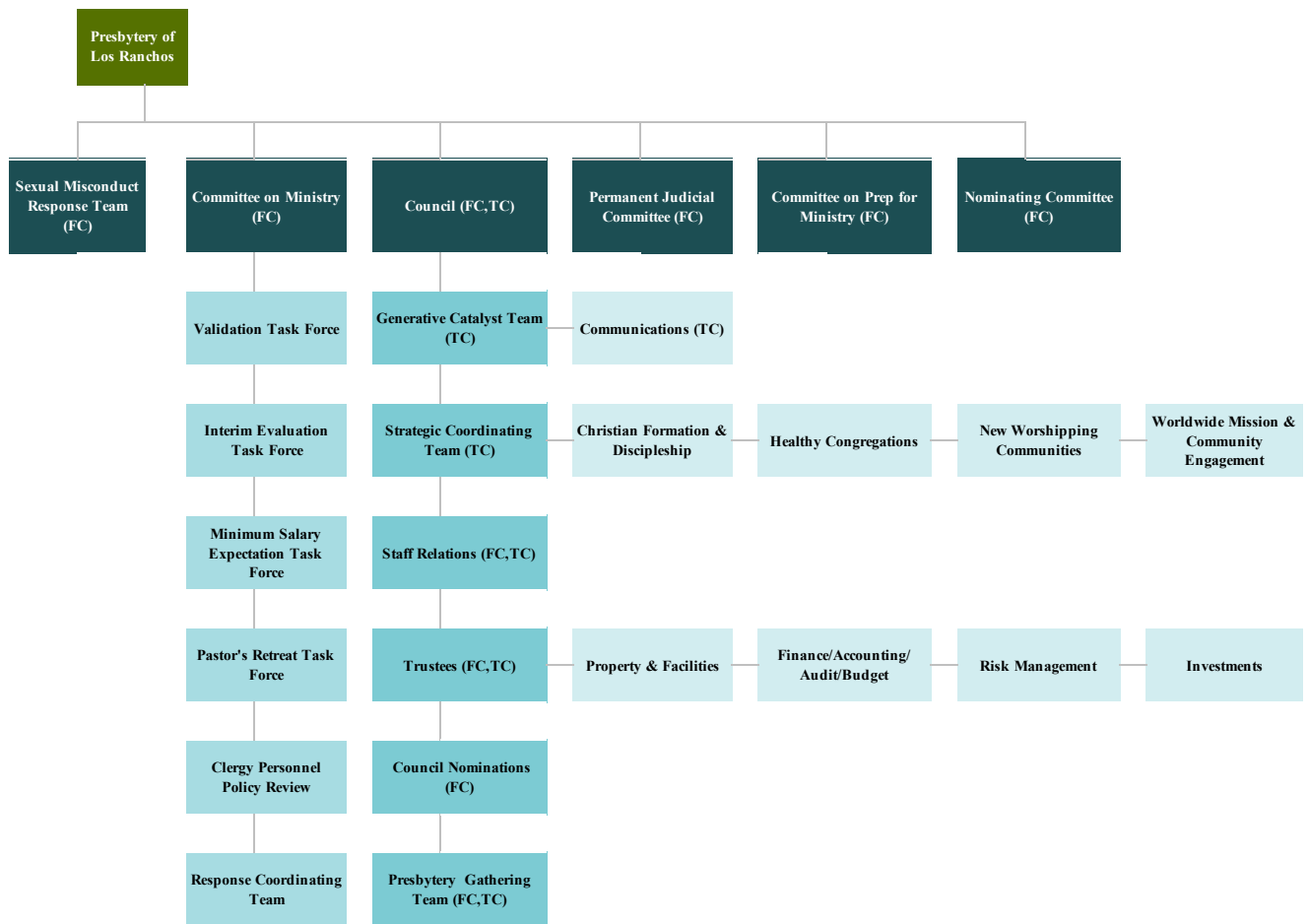
Without repeating the term “flourishing congregations” which is found in our vision statement, and with sensitivity to the presbyters who practice ministry in contexts outside of traditional congregations, we opted to add the word “partnerships.”

“embody”

We were looking for a term that would name our faithfulness in being as well as in doing. What we do springs forth from our identity, values and calling as Reformed disciples of Jesus Christ.

“love and justice of Christ.”

We were looking for a way of naming the reign of God in plain and distinctive terms. The fact that the Mission Statement begins with God and ends with Christ was particularly meaningful for us. It was also important that the statement name the transforming work that the Church is called to initiate and do. The terms “love” and “justice” are found throughout scripture and are descriptive of the work we seek to embody as a presbytery.



FC = Forrest Claassen, TC = Tom Cramer

The Presbytery of Los Ranchos Committee and Team Descriptions

Presbytery Council

Committee Membership:

Committee moderators of Generative Catalyst Team (GCT), Strategic Coordinating Team (SCT), Staff Relations Committee (SRC), Committee on Ministry (COM), and Trustees or their representative, Council Moderator, Presbytery Moderator, Vice-Moderator, plus nine members at large, equally divided into three classes, nominated by Nominating Committee and elected by presbytery, divided as equally as possible between teaching elders and ruling elders.

Committee Function:

Council functions as a coordinating cabinet for the presbytery, to be responsible for increasing efficiency and in general, oversee the work of presbytery. Acts on behalf of presbytery between its meetings, when necessary. Develops General Mission Budget annually.

Committee on Ministry (COM)

Committee Membership:

Twenty-four members nominated by Nominating Committee and elected by presbytery, divided as equally as possible between teaching elders and ruling elders.

Committee Function:

Responsible for promotion of spiritual and temporal welfare of ministers and churches; supervise churches with vacant pulpit; counsel with all pastor nominating committees; process all pastoral calls; provide a pastoral presence and cultivate an attitude of caring and learning; respond to potential disorder within congregations; oversee validation of ministries not directly connected to a congregation.

Members shall be available as needed as a liaison to a pastor nominating committee (usually more than one PNC at a time). Every person on COM is assigned to a sub-committee by the COM moderator. This may mean one more meeting per month (average) as needed and may be daytime or nighttime depending on the type of meeting.

Sub-committees are: Validation Task Force, Interim Evaluation Task Force, Minimum Salary Task Force, Pastor's Retreat Task Force, Clergy Personnel Policy Review, and Response Coordinating Team (RCT).

Nominating Committee

Committee Membership:

Nine members nominated by Presbytery Council and elected by presbytery. Nominations annual report has the people "appointed by Council."

Committee Function:

Responsible to seek, discover, and develop the most effective personnel possible for presbytery committees and teams; to present to presbytery nominations for:

- Presbytery Moderator and Presbytery Vice-Moderator
- Council, COM, PJC, CPM, SMRT, SCT, Trustees members
- Synod Commissioners
- Presbytery "representatives" or special requests for General Assembly Committees.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)

Committee Membership:

Twelve members nominated by Nominating Committee and elected by presbytery, divided as equally as possible between teaching elders and ruling elders.

Committee Function:

Enlistment, oversight, care, and nurture of persons interested in service as Ministers of Word and Sacrament (Teaching Elders) and the sessions of such persons:

- interviews applicants coming "under care"
- consults annually with each inquirer or candidate
- examines and presents inquirers to presbytery with recommendations for action on them becoming candidates.
- oversight of academic progress and Standard Ordination Exams
- examines and presents to presbytery for examination for ordination, those candidates who have received a call (or are ready to receive a call).

In addition to monthly meetings, each member serves as an advisor for three to four inquirers/candidates.

Staff Relations Committee (SRC)

Committee Membership:

Nine members nominated by Presbytery Council and elected by presbytery, divided as equally as possible between teaching elders and ruling elders.

Committee Function:

The committee supports, guides, counsels, and evaluates all presbytery staff; implements the personnel policy of the presbytery; reviews, evaluates, and recommends appropriate changes to the policy; studies the staff configuration and recommends appropriate changes; reviews compensation for all staff members and prepares budget recommendations for the appropriate budget committees; presents nominations to Council for administrative and program staff with the exception of the Leader for Vision and Mission and the Leader for Polity and Administration/Stated Clerk.

Trustees

Committee Membership:

Twelve members nominated by Nominating Committee and elected by presbytery, divided as equally as possible between teaching elders and ruling elders.

Committee Function:

Fiduciary responsibilities for finances and property. Responsible for budget preparation and management; investment strategy and oversight; management and sale of property; endowment funds; insurance; audits; accounting and accounting software; loans from the sale of property funds; reports to presbytery; interest income. Assure that presbytery meets all secular and ecclesiastical requirements for proper management of all assets.

Committee members serve on one of four sub-committees: Budget & Finance; Investments; Property and Facilities; Accounting and Audit.

Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC)

Committee Membership:

Nine members nominated by Nominating Committee and elected by presbytery, divided as equally as possible between teaching elders and ruling elders. The regular term is 6 years - a class elected every other year.

Committee Function:

Hear cases involving judicial matters and render its decision on behalf of the presbytery.

Generative Catalyst Team (GCT)

Committee Membership:

Nine members who are futurists, entrepreneurs, strategist and creative. There are three classes of three-year terms. Each class consists of a member appointed by the Presbytery Moderator, one nominated by Council and elected by presbytery; and one appointed by Presbytery Co-Executive for Vision and Mission.

Committee Function:

- Cultivating & stimulating generative and adaptive thinking
- Provide theological reflection and guidance to presbytery
- Evaluating presbytery's mission
- Reviewing the budget to ensure that resources go to missional priorities
- Bring regular Odyssey Reports to presbytery gatherings
- Raise challenges and opportunities for presbytery's consideration.

Strategic Coordinating Team (SCT)

Committee Membership:

Eighteen members nominated by Nominating Committee and elected by presbytery, divided as equally as possible between teaching elders and ruling elders, who work with leaders of congregations to connect with the resources of the presbytery; are willing to challenge the status quo; are able to design experiments and measure results against desired outcomes; are able to think developmentally, in stages and phases.

Committee Function:

Doing work that is critical to leadership for our presbytery's mission; help create, maintain, support partnerships of congregations; facilitating and supporting affinity and professional networks; provide resources to maintain and encourage ethnic ministries and New Church Developments (NCDs).

Members serve on one of four sub-committees: Christian Formation and Discipleship; Healthy Congregations; New Worshipping Communities; Worldwide and Community Engagement.

Presbytery Gathering Team (PGT)

Committee Membership:

Moderator and Vice-Moderator of the presbytery, representatives from the Presbytery Council, the Generative Catalyst and Strategic Coordinating Teams, and three members-at-large equally divided into three classes. At-Large members are nominated by Council and elected by presbytery.

Committee Function:

The Presbytery Gathering Team builds enthusiasm and energy for Presbytery Gatherings by coordinating activities that flow together in a natural rhythm in an effort to support the presbytery's vision, and enhance its missional effectiveness.

Presbytery Staff

Co-Executive and Stated Clerk for Governance
and Congregational Leadership

Forrest Claassen, fclaassen@losranchos.org

Co- Executive for Vision and Mission:

Tom Cramer, tcramer@losranchos.org

Executive Assistant for Administration & Operations

Carol Bridgeman, cbridgeman@losranchos.org

Assistant to the Stated Clerk

Robin Clardy, rclardy@losranchos.org

Business Manager:

Kathy Hill Long, klong@losranchos.org

Executive Assistant for Presbytery Gatherings
& Ministry Support:

Debbie Haley, dhaley@losranchos.org

Presbytery Consultants

Consultant for New Worshipping Communities
& Congregational Transformation:

Alfredo Delgado, alfredel_10101@yahoo.com

Consultant for Spiritual Formation:

Susan Young-Thornton, smythornton@mac.com

Moderators/Co-Moderators of Presbytery Committees and Teams – 2021

Presbytery Moderator:

Tim McCalmont – macrev44@gmail.com

Presbytery Moderator Elect:

Bob Parker – cdmbob@aol.com

Committee on Ministry:

Marionette Oliver – mernet1@aol.com

Committee on Preparation for Ministry:

Jackson Clelland – jackson.clelland@mypcom.com

Generative Catalyst Team:

Rob Langworthy - rlangworthy@covenantlb.org

Nominations Committee:

Leanne Strommen - stromet@cox.net

Presbytery Council:

Steve Sweet - ssweet@lagunapreschurch.org

Presbytery Gathering Team:

Tim McCalmont – macrev44@gmail.com

Strategic Coordinating Team:

Jonas Hayes – jonas.gracefirst@gmail.com

Staff Relations Committee:

Gus Altuzarra – gusaltuzarra@vertical.com

Trustees:

Russ Jacobson – russ.jacobson@hourofpower.org

Common Presbytery Acronyms

COM:	Committee on Ministry
CPM:	Committee on Preparation for Ministry
GCT:	Generative Catalyst Team
JST:	Joint Solution Team
LRP:	Los Ranchos Presbytery
NCD:	New Church Development
NOM:	Nominations Committee
PGT:	Presbytery Gathering Team
PJC:	Permanent Judicial Commission
PLR:	Presbytery of Los Ranchos
RE:	Ruling Elder
SC:	Stated Clerk
SCT:	Strategic Coordinating Team
SMRT:	Sexual Misconduct Response Team
SR:	Staff Relations Committee
TE:	Teaching Elder (Minister of Word and Sacrament)

Want to know more? Visit our website - <https://losranchos.org> - for more in-depth information.