



2022 BASIC MISSION SUPPORT LETTER Counting on You!

November 11, 2021

Dear Pastor and Clerk of Session,

Autumnal blessings to you! Thank you for your generous support in 2021 and for the mission we share together in our presbytery. The faithful giving of congregations past and present funded **over \$500,000 in COVID Relief Grants** so that congregations big and small could weather the pandemic.

Some congregations purchased air purifiers, others learned how to use new audiovisual equipment, but almost all **developed online ministries** that have become a regular part of their gathering and growing. It will take several months for most of us to get our bearings in a post-pandemic world, but with God's help—and just as importantly, each other's—we shall do so.

This past season has taught us that we can **learn new ways of being and doing church**. This learning will accelerate the more we stay open to the Spirit's ability to surprise and remake us. Jesus taught his disciples, “New wine requires new wine skins.”

One of the ways **our presbytery is being “remade”** is through the Missional & Pioneer Leader Training that was launched this year. Roy Ketring, a Ruling Elder of Placentia Presbyterian Church, admitted that he was at first hesitant to participate. Once he got started, however, he said he was grateful that he joined, adding: *“Each presenter brought something different and unique to the table which I had never considered before, thought about, or knew of. At this old age I learned something from every presenter, for which I am grateful.”*



Ruling Elder Roy Ketring



Rev. Felix Acosta, Boyle Heights

Another way we are being “remade” is quite literal. In 2021 alone, our presbytery has **cultivated three New Worshiping Communities**, all of them serving Spanish-speaking communities. This brings our total of NWC to seven, which is one of the highest in the denomination. To the left is the Rev. Dr. Felix Acosta, the organizing pastor of a NWC in Boyle Heights.

A third way we are being “remade” is through the Christian Formation & Discipleship **forums on dismantling structural racism**. The Spirit has brought to the world’s attention the need for restorative justice, a compassion that goes beyond individual inclusiveness to ways the church can promote a more biblical distribution of power and resources throughout society.

These are just a few of the ways our presbytery cultivates vital congregations that embody the love and justice of Jesus Christ. Our mission partnerships with Habitat for Humanity, Home for Refugees, Family Promise, and our Presbyterian Mission Co-Workers, to name only a few, continue to offer hope and sustenance to countless more.

As you can imagine, it is **no small task for our presbytery to provide leadership and support to forty-four chartered congregations and seven New Worshiping Communities**. The range and variety of issues that our presbytery staff and ministry teams address day after day, month after month, are complex and significant.

Especially in a year when we are emerging from a pandemic, **your 2022 Basic Mission gifts are crucial** for the work we share together in support of your local ministry and the ministry of the wider church. **I do hope we can count on your congregation to pledge**. Whether large or small, your contribution makes a difference. Indeed, it is an expression of our unity in Christ and the covenant that binds us together as Presbyterians.

Please exercise your faithfulness by making a pledge for 2022 General Mission Support.

Pledge Forms

For your convenience, I have attached a Pledge Form to this letter. You may also download another copy of the form and its instructions at www.losranchos.org located on the “Resources” page in the “Treasurer/Session” section.

Kindly have your Pastor, Clerk, or Treasurer sign your pledge and return it to Kathy Long at the presbytery office **by December 17, 2021**.

Each year, your generosity and belief in our common work together inspire me greatly, but far more important, are the lives that are transformed through our unique partnership. Thank you for holding all things in common for the greater good of God’s Church.

Warmly in Christ,

Tom Cramer
Presbytery Co-Executive for Vision & Mission