

**STRATEGIC COORDINATING TEAM**  
**Report to Council on February 7, 2012**  
(Revised on February 6, 2012 at 4:00 PM)

The SCT has met twice since the last meeting of Council, including one all-day retreat on January 12, 2012. The following report represents the major activities of the SCT since mid-October 2011.

**Continued Discernment of SCT's Role**

*PLR Mission (as interpreted by the SCT):*  
*"Partnering together to foster effective missional congregations."*

SCT's role:

- Make visible the needs, opportunities, resources and interests of churches within our presbytery. What are the strengths? What are the weaknesses?
- Link congregations with opportunities for learning, connecting, and birthing. Serve as a clearing house for people and material resources within our presbytery. Toward this end, make available to the larger community the activities that our churches are ALREADY DOING. Don't add new layers at "central" when our churches are already offering excellent learning and mission opportunities.
- Strategically discern where God wants us to pay attention as a presbytery. For example, increasing the courage and capacity of our leaders seems to be strategic to everything we do.
- Have faith that underutilized capacity will emerge when we create space for people to use their gifts and talents to build God's kingdom.
- Be aware that unless there is enough "inspirational dissatisfaction" in a church, it will not seek help from the outside.
- Dialogue with COM (Committee on Ministry) so that they are aware of the work that the SCT is doing, especially in areas where the SCT is better equipped to make a difference.

**SCT Communications Task Group**

In January 2012, the SCT sent a letter to all Session Clerks and Moderators requesting an opportunity for representatives from the SCT to attend a meeting of their Sessions sometime in 2012. One goal is to share information about resources available to Los Ranchos churches and the communities they serve, as well as to assist them in developing missional partnerships, and brokering resources for missional effectiveness. Another goal is to hear from churches regarding how the SCT can help enhance communication between the presbytery and congregations, between member congregations, and also with agencies outside our presbytery.

## **A New Online Community for PLR Networks & Partnerships**

As an initiative of the WMP and the SCT, The Educators' Network is beta testing a new web-based tool to facilitate mission connections throughout the presbytery. The goal is to allow participants to update, search, and access all of our congregations' mission/partnership information in one place. When this tool is up and running, participants will be able to update their own activities and make connections with other Los Ranchos congregations. The tool will also send automatic updates to participants who have indicated an interest in a particular partnership, ministry, or mission.

## **Healthy Churches Network**

1. Twelve churches with four-person teams are participating in the "Nurturing Generous Congregations Workshop" with Bill Enright (Director of the Lake Institute on Faith & Giving). The goal of this two-day seminar (1/28 & 3/10) is to help pastors and leaders think beyond fundraising and annual stewardship campaigns to nurturing cultures of generosity in Los Ranchos congregations. The nature of religious giving has changed and Los Ranchos is helping leaders thrive in this new giving environment. The SCT approved up to \$9,000 to underwrite this two-day seminar.
2. Upwards of 50 Los Ranchos pastors, elders, and ministry leaders will participate in "New Visions: Leadership for Mission" seminar with noted author and church consultant Peter Steinke (February 18-19, 2012). Steinke is a leading expert on preparing congregations for tomorrow's world. Rather than giving easy answers which superimpose ideas from the outside, Dr. Steinke helps congregations capitalize on their unique identity to help them thrive and grow. The SCT approved up to \$5,050 to underwrite this event.

## **Worldwide Mission Partnership**

In addition to continued support and guidance of the Southeast Asia Partnership, East Africa Partnership, Family Promise, and Bridging Borders Partnership, WMP **conducted Mission Summit #2 on February 4, 2012 at the First Presbyterian Church of Santa Ana.** Well over 90 mission-minded leaders from across the presbytery connected in nine breakout groups with topics such as "Missionary Care," "Church-Public School Partnerships," and "When Helping Hurts," to name a few.

## **Christian Formation and Discipleship Network** (also known also as the "Christian Educators' Network")

1. On October 20, 2011, over 25 educators lunched at Trinity United Presbyterian Church to get to know each other and to begin making plans for increased collaboration and networking. They followed up this meeting with an Open Space at November's Presbytery Gathering which focused on a presentation of the "Children and Worship" curriculum.

2. SCT approved up to \$1,200 for the purchase of Vacation Bible School preview kits from the main SCT account line. These kits provide a preview for all the churches to purchase appropriate VBS materials for next summer. Usually the kits are donated to small churches which cannot afford to purchase supplies for VBS.
3. With SCT-approved funds for conference fees, two PLR educators attended the 2012 APCE conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

### **Racial-Ethnic and NCD Networks and Partnerships**

1. The SCT provided grants of \$250 each for Eloisa Velasquez, Jenny Mambu, and Huong Dang to attend the Women of Color Consultation in Charlotte, North Carolina on October 20-23, 2011. The purpose of the consultation was for WOC to engage in dialogue with one another regarding issues and recommendations affecting their future as leaders in the church. The three participants are sharing what they've learned through Open Space gatherings and Presbyterian Women forums throughout the presbytery.
2. The SCT approved \$2,000 to support the Hope Alive Benefit Concert for New Hope NCD held on November 13, 2011. The concert supports New Hope's partnership with the Santa Ana Unified School District which provides workshops, lessons, clinics, and concerts for students, as well as a model for Church-public school partnerships.
3. Consultant for Hispanic Ministries Alfredo Delgado and Associate Presbytery Pastor Tom Cramer, led a two-day retreat for Hispanic-Latino leaders on November 27-29, 2011. The retreat inaugurated a new era of communication and collaboration among Hispanic- Latino leaders as they pioneer new models for evangelism, church planting, and self-sustainable ministry. The SCT allocated \$4,500 to underwrite this event.
4. Under the leadership of Adel Malek, and with \$2000 seed money from the SCT, a new Arabic-speaking Fellowship was inaugurated at St. Peter's by the Sea on January 15, 2012. The Fellowship is a ministry of St. Peter's by the Sea of Huntington Beach.
5. Under the leadership of Mark Hong, and with \$1000 seed money from the SCT, four Korean Churches hosted an all-day sporting event on January 21, 2012, to celebrate the New Year and their connection as Korean congregations serving in Los Ranchos.
6. Representatives are working with the pastor and steering committee of Getsemani Worshipping Fellowship (Anaheim) to address issues related to their financial shortfall and to make plans for a self-sustainable future or dissolution of the fellowship.

7. The Tri-Party Covenant for Village Presbyterian Church of Ladera Ranch expires on June 30, 2012, but may be extended for an additional year with consent of all parties involved. A big issue weighing on the leaders' minds is Village's long-term financial sustainability. They have a current usage rate of \$7,500 per month (of previously authorized Joining Hearts and Hands Funds), but realize that these sources won't last forever. They are preparing an initiative which they hope will help them break through their current membership/giving plateau, but which also may involve a faster usage rate than is currently in place. They are asking the SCT for guidance regarding how to access more funds sooner, should they be required.

### **Worldwide Mission & Congregational and Partnership Development Grants**

1. \$5,000 was awarded as a WMP Grant for the Rising TIDE ministry of the Covenant Presbyterian Church of Long Beach.
2. \$5,000 was awarded as a one-time grant from SCT-managed Peacemaking Funds as a Congregational Development Grant for the Covenant Presbyterian Church of Long Beach's Rising TIDE ministry.

The following two grant proposals from New Hope (NCD) and Christ Lakewood will be discussed early in 2012:

- New Hope Presbyterian: "Mind and Mission" program, 16-18 year olds from four Presbyterian churches participate in think tanks that share findings and make multi-media presentations.
- Lakewood Christ Presbyterian Church: New sports outreach ministry to youth to help church redevelop its engagement in the surrounding community.

The following grant proposal from St. Peter's by the Sea will be discussed as part of the April 1, 2012, grant cycle:

- St. Peter's by the Sea: Congregational Development Grant for developing a new Presbyterian Arabic-Speaking Ministry in Huntington Beach.

**MOTIONS WITH FINANCIAL IMPACT SINCE LAST MEETING OF COUNCIL BEGIN ON NEXT PAGE.**

**SCT Report to Council of Motions with Financial Impact  
Since last Meeting of Council on November 1, 2011**

SCT Approval Date: **01/12/12**

Purpose of Expense: **Balance of Expenses for Nurturing Generous Congregations Seminar with Bill Enright**

Group Making Request: **Strategic Coordinating Team**

Amount Requested: **Up to \$4,500.00**

Amount Approved: **Up to \$4,500.00**

Account Name/#: SCT Budget Funds

Council Approval Date:

Distribution Date:

Distribution Amount:

Comments/Motion: The SCT approved (12/8/11), and PLR mailed, \$4,500 as a partial payment of the “deposit invoice” for the “Nurturing Generous Congregations” seminar with Bill Enright (1/28/12 & 3/10/12). The approval for payment of the balance of the invoice and other event expenses was contingent on the availability of 2011 SCT budget funds. As it was determined that there were indeed funds available in the 2011 SCT budget, the SCT requests payment of the deposit invoice balance, as well as any other pre-paid/vouchered expenses for this event (air fare, motel, etc.) up to \$9,000.00 total.

The motion from January 12, 2012, SCT meeting was as follows:

M/S/P to approve up to an additional \$4,500 from 2011 SCT Budget Funds (set aside in 2011) for the “Nurturing Generous Congregations” seminar with Bill Enright (1/28/12 & 3/10/12).

SCT Approval Date: **12/8/11**  
Purpose of Expense: **Vouchered Expenses for Steve Yamaguchi's Sabbatical, Summer of 2012**  
Group Making Request: **Staff Relations**  
Amount Requested: **\$10,000**  
Amount Approved: **Up to \$10,000 vouchered expenses**  
Account Name/#: **Synod Grant Fund**  
Council Approval Date:  
Distribution Date:  
Distribution Amount:  
Comments/Motion: M/S/P to expend up to \$10,000 from Synod Grant funds for reimbursement of vouchered expenses of the Presbytery Pastor while he is on Sabbatical in 2012, and to request the following from the Staff Relations Committee (1) submission of a plan of study and projected expenses related to the sabbatical and (2) that future provision for sabbaticals for PLR executives (clergy) be incorporated as part of the Staff Relations Committee's budget.

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SCT Approval Date: **12/8/11**  
Purpose of Expense: **Peter Steinke's "New Visions for Mission" Seminar, February 17-18, 2012**  
Group Making Request: **Randy Steele on behalf of PLR's Ruling Elders & Leaders**  
Amount Requested: **\$5,050 to subsidize registrations of the first 50 participants**  
Amount Approved: **\$5,050.00**  
Account Name/#: **SCT Partnership Budget**  
Council Approval Date:  
Distribution Date:  
Distribution Amount:  
Comments/Motion: Request to underwrite up to \$5,000 of expenses for "New Visions: Leadership for Mission" seminar (planned for February 17-18, 2012) with Peter Steinke. The cap may be revisited in January depending on number of registrations. Motion amended to use money from 2011 SCT Partnerships budget line item instead of Sale of Church Property Leadership Development funds. M/S/P to expend up to \$5,050 from 2011 SCT Partnership budget to underwrite expenses for the "New Visions: Leadership for Mission" seminar (planned for February 17-18, 2012) with Peter

Steinke and to revisit cap in January 2012 depending on registrations.

SCT Approval Date: **12/8/11**

Purpose of Expense: **“Nurturing Generous Giving” 2-part seminar with Bill Enright (1/28/12 & 3/10/12)**

Group Making Request: **Healthy Congregations Network Team**

Amount Requested: **\$4,500.00 to underwrite cost of event**

Amount Approved: **\$4,500.00**

Account Name/#: **SCT Leadership Development Budget (or, if insufficient funds, from SCT Healthy Congregations Budget)**

Council Approval Date:

Distribution Date:

Distribution Amount:

Comments/Motion: Request to subsidize up to \$4,500 of ~\$9,000 cost for Enright “Nurturing Generous Giving” 2-part workshop (1/28/12 & 3/10/12) from 2011 SCT Leadership Development budget. M/S/P; Kathy, please distribute to Lake Institute in 2011.

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SCT Approval Date: **12/8/11**

Purpose of Expense: **Hispanic/Latino Leadership Retreat (11/27-29/11)**

Group Making Request: **Hispanic/Latino Network, Alfredo Delgado**

Amount Requested: **\$4,500 to underwrite cost of event**

Amount Approved: **\$4,500.00**

Account Name/#: **SCT Partnership Budget**

Council Approval Date:

Distribution Date:

Distribution Amount:

Comments/Motion: Request to underwrite the Hispanic/Latino Leadership Retreat in amount of \$4,500 from the SCT Partnership budget to ratify electronic vote of October 5, 2011. M/S/P

SCT Approval Date: **12/8/11**

Purpose of Expense: **Seed Money for New Arabic Fellowship at St. Peter's by the Sea, Huntington Beach**

Group Making Request: **Adel Malek on behalf of St. Peter's by the Sea, Huntington Beach**

Amount Requested: **\$2,000.00 to underwrite cost of event**

Amount Approved: **\$2,000.00**

Account Name/#: **If available, use 2011 SCT Partnership Funds. Otherwise, SOCP Church Development Funds**

Council Approval Date:

Distribution Date:

Distribution Amount:

Comments/Motion: Request to provide \$2,000 in seed money for Arabic Fellowship at St. Peter's By the Sea Presbyterian Church in Huntington Beach from Sale of Church Property Church Development funds. Motion amended to use funds from available 2011 budgeted funds instead. More money can be requested in the April grant cycle. M/S/P

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SCT Approval Date: **12/8/11**

Purpose of Expense: **All-day Celebration of Four Korean Churches on 1/21/12, Mark Hong**

Group Making Request: **Korean Church Network**

Amount Requested: **\$1,000.00**

Amount Approved: **Up to \$1,000 matching equal amounts of vouchered expenses**

Account Name/#: **SCT Partnership Budget**

Council Approval Date:

Distribution Date:

Distribution Amount:

Comments/Motion: Request from Mark Hong for \$1,000 to underwrite an all-day partnership celebration of four Korean Churches January 21, 2012. Motion amended to provide matching vouchered funds for costs by churches up to \$1,000 from SCT Partnership funds. M/S/P

SCT Approval Date: **12/8/11**  
Purpose of Expense: **Partial Scholarships for Association of Presbyterian Educators' Conference**  
Group Making Request: **Educators' Network**  
Amount Requested: **\$2000.00**  
Amount Approved: **Up to \$2,000 for vouchered expenses**  
Account Name/#: **SCT Partnership Budget**  
Council Approval Date:  
Distribution Date:  
Distribution Amount:  
Comments/Motion: From the floor, Lynn Taylor requested up to \$2,000 to pay for partial scholarships of those attending the APCE (Association of Presbyterian Christian Educators) conference. Requests will be vouchered, to come from 2011 SCT Partnership funds. M/S/P

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SCT Approval Date: **12/8/11**  
Purpose of Expense: **SCT Congregational Grant for Covenant Presbyterian Church of Long Beach's Rising TIDE afterschool ministry.**  
Group Making Request: **Covenant Presbyterian Church, Long Beach; Adele Langworthy**  
Amount Requested: **\$5,000.00**  
Amount Approved: **\$5,000.00**  
Account Name/#: **Peace Making Funds**  
Council Approval Date:  
Distribution Date:  
Distribution Amount:  
Comments/Motion: Covenant Presbyterian Church of Long Beach's Congregational Grant Proposal has been researched by Bruce and Colette, and a recommendation to fund a one-time grant of \$5,000 from SCT-managed Peacemaking Funds was presented. M/S/P.