

REPORT TO THE PRESBYTERY OF LOS RANCHOS

September 15, 2011

(Revised 9/14/11 @1:51 PM)

Strategic Coordinating Team

The Strategic Coordinating Team (SCT) met three times since the last regular meeting of the Presbytery with quorums present at all meetings. In accordance with action taken, the SCT reports the following:

Approved minutes for SCT meetings on June 9, August 23, and September 8, 2011.

Approved the Congregational and Partnership Development Grant process and application, including maximum limits for each type of grant.

Approved that Council and the Generative Catalyst Team (GCT) consider changing the days and format of Presbytery Gatherings with the goal of producing the following outcomes:

1. To be more inclusive of those who work during the weekdays.
2. To provide more opportunity for non-ordained church members and others to participate in Open Space offerings.
3. To move the presbytery towards discussions about establishing missional partnerships and nurturing healthy, growing congregations and away from business matters that can be addressed in other forums.

Agreed by consensus to experiment using an Executive Team for a period of up to six months. The Executive Team will help shape the work of the SCT, including creating a docket for its meetings. It will also take limited and authorized action on behalf of the SCT.

Affirmed the selection of Alfredo Delgado as Consultant for Hispanic Ministries. The purpose of this position is to create a strategy for all continuing and new Hispanic congregations to be financially self-sufficient by December 31, 2012.

Affirmed the selection of Jill Nagasugi as Consultant for Mission Partnerships. The purpose of this position is, within 18 months, to establish a system which moves the administrative and coordinating functions associated with stimulating and brokering mission partnerships into local churches, partnerships, or networks.

Other Highlights

Met jointly with the Administration Team/Trustees to receive a thorough presentation of the presbytery's finances, including all matters related to the work of the SCT. The Administrative Team introduced a narrative budget as part of their presentation, which the Administrative Team will also make available to the whole presbytery.

Discussed what to do for churches that are declining in energy and membership, especially:

1. Churches that have a heart for being missional, but they need a process whereby their missional intentions can be realized.
2. Churches that have a heart for being missional, but they don't have the energy or money to move forward.
3. Churches that have yet to discover the importance of becoming missional, but may welcome a process whereby they can become missional.

Recommendation: Identify and stimulate the use of effective processes (e.g., New Beginnings PC(USA), TAG, Natural Church Development, Refocusing, etc.) through which churches can celebrate God's work in their past and present, as well as discern God's call for them in the future.

Identified SCT members as liaisons to ministry areas in which partnerships and networks are in the process of emerging (e.g., Healthy Congregations, Christian Formation and Discipleship, Worldwide Mission and Outreach, Community Outreach, Racial-Ethnic Congregations, Worship, Communications).

Introducing Jill Nagasugi
Consultant for Mission Partnerships

Jill Nagasugi, Elder at Trabuco Presbyterian Church, has been selected to serve as our presbytery's Consultant for Mission Partnerships. The purpose of the position is to help our presbytery develop a system which moves the administrative and coordinating functions associated with stimulating and brokering mission partnerships into local churches, partnerships, or networks.

Whether in the marketplace or in her congregation, Jill excels at developing processes which help people work together toward a common goal. Her philosophy on missions is that "missions is for everyone," regardless of a person's financial, physical or time constraints. In addition to serving as an Elder for Mission Partnerships at her church, Jill brings professional experience as an independent business consultant and as a Vice President for a large bank.

Over a period of 19 years at Trabuco Presbyterian, Jill was the spark that kept mission partnerships at the forefront of Trabuco's communal witness in the region. She longed for a day when the presbytery would provide more support to mission leaders like herself, and believes that this new day has arrived with the design our presbytery is implementing to stimulate mission partnerships and networks.

"Participation in mission work is a reflection of a healthy congregation," Jill says. "Every congregation has strengths and weaknesses, but that shouldn't keep them from engaging in missions. The important thing is to be open to where God is calling your church to serve, wherever that may be. I see my role as helping churches share the joy of mission involvement as well as providing information on how to connect with other churches and agencies in our region."

Introducing Alfredo Delgado
Consultant for Hispanic Ministries
(Release Date: 08/22/11)

The Reverend Alfredo Delgado has been selected to serve as our presbytery's Consultant for Hispanic Ministries.

Alfredo comes to our presbytery with 20 years of pastoral experience in Hispanic communities focusing on lay equipping, church growth, evangelism, partnership development and community outreach. Currently, Alfredo serves as the Director of Multicultural Ministries at the First Presbyterian Church of Downey. Over the past several months, Alfredo has also served as a presbytery consultant to the Nueva Vida Presbyterian Church in Whittier, with great success.

Alfredo's mission will be to work with leaders of Los Ranchos' Hispanic congregations to create a new strategy for self-sufficient Hispanic ministries in our region. Alfredo's enthusiastic leadership and strong faith inspires leaders to consider "what can be," and then he walks along side them as they learn new practices to lead their congregations.

Because Alfredo is a collaborative leader, and because Hispanic congregations have so much potential for development, Alfredo envisions inviting significant input from pastors and elders as he helps coalesce a new strategy for Hispanic ministries in Los Ranchos. In his own words, "I would like to create a team of 'pioneers' to explore new ways of developing and redeveloping congregations. I will make sure that the vision and work of these groups is well communicated among all the congregations and entities within our presbytery."

The whole presbytery is invited to join Alfredo in this quest. Please join Council in welcoming him to his new role, and be eager to contact him with your ideas, support, and vision for Hispanic ministries in our presbytery.