



## **The Ministry of the Presbytery of San Diego**

The Presbytery of San Diego is a joint ministry and learning community of the 32 Presbyterian churches in San Diego and Imperial Counties. We used to be primarily a governing body, now we are primarily a relational community, and we hope to become primarily a mission agency. We are seeking to create a culture and an environment where missional experiments can blossom and grow. We focus on three areas of ministry: congregations, congregational leaders, and our community.

We seek minister to the congregations in our presbytery by:

1. Leading interested churches through a missional church readiness survey process, that helps them identify adaptive challenges they are facing, that are critical for their vital future, for which they have no current solution,
2. Helping churches through a mission study process when a pastor leaves,
3. Assisting with conflict situations when churches are unable to resolve them themselves, and
4. Providing support, advice, and encouragement on a number of different administrative matters churches face, such as finances, procedures, policies, and important legal issues.

We seek to minister to congregational leaders by:

1. Leading interested pastors through a missional pastor leader survey process, that helps them identify new adaptive skills they want to develop, to continue to grow in their leadership capacities in their churches,
2. Sponsoring a Leadership Connection Event one Saturday every January, to bring elders and deacons and other lay leaders together for training, communication, and building relationships to do their ministries better,
3. Supervising and overseeing almost 40 candidates and inquirers as they go through seminary and move into full-time careers as pastors in the church,

4. Assisting pastor nominating committees when they are looking for a new pastor,
5. Providing correction, discipline, and boundaries for church leaders when there is a transgression or confusion about what is appropriate, and
6. Other leadership training opportunities, advice, and support (such as worship, education, outreach, fire/disaster assistance) when requested and as needed.

We seek to come alongside of our congregations to minister together to our community by:

1. Providing support to Reality Changers, a very successful ministry that seeks to raise up first generation college students with the Word of God, working with urban students of different racial ethnic backgrounds,
2. Providing support to the Presbyterian Urban Ministries as they minister to the poor, the homeless, and the unemployed of San Diego,
3. Reaching out to different people groups in our community through our Iglesia Hispanic ministry, our Sudanese ministry, and other possible new churches and ministries, and
4. Helping congregations and church leaders to listen to their neighborhoods, see where God's Holy Spirit is already at work, and join in the ministry that Christ is already doing in our communities.



Respond to: [ClarkCowden@PresbyterySD.org](mailto:ClarkCowden@PresbyterySD.org)