



Mission & Ministry

THE PACIFIC SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE OF THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

TRANSFORMING LIVES & COMMUNITIES

The Pacific Southwest Conference is a mission region of the Evangelical Covenant Church encompassing Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, and Utah. We seek to support ministries to and with all ages reflecting the diversity of race, culture, and class within our region. We affirm the Covenant's identity, biblical mission, enduring commitments, and core beliefs.

OUR VISION FOR MISSION — Our vision for mission is to be a mosaic of churches working interdependently to transform lives and communities.

OUR MISSION PRIORITIES

Church Planting — Initiating and nurturing new church plants in partnership with existing churches.

Congregational Vitality — Resourcing local churches in a process of spiritual formation and equipping of servant leaders to pursue healthy, missional ministries.

Compassion, Mercy, and Justice — Resourcing local churches and leaders to engage in community transformation.

OUR HISTORY

1902 – 6 churches from San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose, Los Angeles, Fresno, and Kingsburg Colony organized the Svenska Evangeliska Missionsforeningen I California.

1927 – 18 churches in California with retirement home, nurses' home, a seaman's home, hospital, and camp (Mission Springs).

1952 – 34 churches in California and Arizona with two retirement communities, a seaman's home, a hospital, and Mission Springs.

1977 – 60 churches in California and Arizona including 5 specific ethnic congregations. Two camps—Mission Springs and Alpine.

2002 – 121 churches in Arizona, California, and Hawaii with 29% of these churches serving specific ethnic or multiethnic constituencies. Two camps – Mission Springs and Alpine.

2011 – 161 churches with 43,786 worship attendees in Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada with 44% of these churches serving specific ethnic or multiethnic constituencies. Two camps—Mission Springs and Alpine.

CHURCH PLANTING

God's movement in the Pacific Southwest Conference continues to be evident in the area of church planting. Seventy-eight churches exist now that were planted from January 1994–May 2011. Each church plant has been a partnership of the Department of Church Growth and Evangelism of the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC) and the Pacific Southwest Conference. In addition, over 80% of the churches planted from 2001–May 2011 had a partner church or churches that helped provide funding.

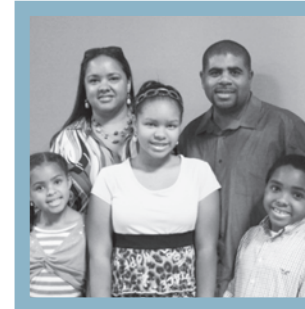
The PSWC is committed to planting new churches throughout this five-state region that reflect the multiethnic mosaic of our mission field. Pictured here are pastors of churches launched September 2010–May 2011.

“In addition to the joy of seeing ministry spill over into new places, partnering to plant churches has energized our local and global mission efforts, encouraged sacrificial giving, catalyzed member commitment, and caused a fresh outpouring of praise to God.”

Tim Morey, church planter,
Life Covenant Church, Torrance, CA



Mission Hope Covenant Church – *Tustin, CA*
Erin Kerr, pastor



Agape Christian Covenant Church – *Gilbert, AZ*
Charles Newman, pastor



Grace Hills Bible Church
Angels Camp, CA
Dusty Bach, pastor



Advance Covenant Church
Las Vegas, NV
Ryan Lunceford, pastor



Gracia y Paz Covenant Church – *Chula Vista, CA*
Jorge Garcia, pastor

DID YOU KNOW?

The first Evangelical Covenant church in Nevada, Amistad Covenant Church, launched April of 2010 in Las Vegas. Advance Covenant Church, noted at left, is the second Evangelical Covenant church in Las Vegas.

As of November 2010, churches planted by the PSWC since 1994 accounted for 56% of the total worship attendance in the conference.

CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY

As of May 2011, 60% of PSWC churches were 10 to 134 years of age. The support of existing churches in pursuing congregational vitality—being healthy and missional—is one of the keys to advancing Christ’s mission in this region. Healthy is defined as pursuing Christ; missional is defined as pursuing his priorities for the world.

The PSWC seeks to assist congregations and individuals commit to developing servant leaders and discern spiritual strategic directions to further healthy, missional ministries. Awareness is raised through **VERITAS** seminars, **VITALITY COACHING**, and **NAVIGATE**. Customized coaching is also provided as follow-up to Veritas, for churches in pastoral transition, pastoral search processes, and crisis.

NUMBER OF CHURCHES BY DECADE—MAY 2011

| | |
|------------|----|
| pre 1900's | 7 |
| 1900–1909 | 4 |
| 1910–1919 | 6 |
| 1920–1929 | 2 |
| 1930–1939 | 1 |
| 1940–1949 | 1 |
| 1950–1959 | 12 |
| 1960–1969 | 14 |
| 1970–1979 | 8 |
| 1980–1989 | 9 |
| 1990–1999 | 28 |
| 2000–2009 | 60 |
| 2010–2011 | 9 |

NAVIGATE

“Last fall a team from our church participated in Navigate, a five-day workshop on congregational health and vitality sponsored by our conference and denomination. As it turned out we went to a revival! We were pastored, exhorted, and sent home on a mission to love our church into health and vitality.”

Jeff Mitchell, pastor

Good Samaritan Community Covenant Church
Valley Springs, CA

VITALITY COACHING

“Walking hand-in-hand with the PSWC, our congregation is now back on the road to becoming the healthy missional church that God intended. The journey to revitalization is not easy, but to reach a hurting world—it’s essential.”

Melody Johnson, chair

Simi Covenant Church
Simi Valley, CA

SEARCH PROCESS SUPPORT

“We have a wonderful new pastor, ideal for our church! The PSWC staff supported us through the entire process—orienting our search committee, gathering profiles of appropriate candidates, helping us shape the interviews, advising on call details, and finally installing our new pastor. Thank you!”

Jim Jenifer, chair,

Chapel in the Pines
Arnold, CA

COMPASSION, MERCY, & JUSTICE

The Mosaic Center (TMC) was created in 2007 to be more intentional in equipping persons to live and minister effectively in our rapidly changing communities. The TMC's strategic directions include: awareness building, leader formation, organization and resource development, and networking. TMC ministries include:

JOURNEY TO MOSAIC (J2M) is a four-day bus trip designed to grow cross-cultural competencies while exploring historical and contemporary challenges for African Americans, Asian Americans, and Hispanic Americans in California; launched in 2005.

JOURNEY TO MOSAIC SQUARED (J2M²) is a three-week residential urban immersion experience for emerging leaders, 18–24 years old; launched in 2006.

CAMP MOSAIC is a three-day experience for young adults at Alpine Camp and Conference Center to develop leadership skills for advancing a multi-ethnic Kingdom of God; launched in 2009.

THE CENTER FOR EVANGELISM AND COMPASSION is a partnership being explored between the TMC, local churches, and the Fred Jordan Mission in Los Angeles to create a center for incarnational leader formation in the heart of the largest city in the PSWC.

“I wanted to be a part of the J2M trip, however, I never expected the depth of transformation God would do in my heart as I listened to story after story of African, Asian, and Hispanic American experiences in our country.”

Joy Champion,
Modesto Covenant Church
Modesto, CA

“J2M² has helped me realize that I have to live a life resembling that of Jesus. For me, that means stepping out of the four walls of the church really connecting with the community.”

Debbie Anabalon,
El Encino Covenant Church
Downey, CA

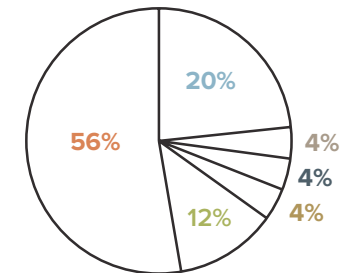


March 2011 J2M Participants

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Hispanic population in the U.S. grew 43% between 2000 and 2010.
- California has more Asian Americans than any other state—5.2 million persons.

Data from the 2010 U.S. Census and the UCLA Asian American Studies Center



**PSWC Churches by
Ethnicity as of May 2011**



SUPPORTING PASTORS

The PSWC through its Ministerial Association, team of Spiritual Directors, and staff seeks to encourage pastors and staff ministers to be proactive in self-care and lifelong learning. In May 2011, the total number in the PSWC pastoral community was 437, including those who are currently inactive or retired.



Youth Leaders' Retreat at Mission Springs

THE PSWC MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION (MA) includes all persons holding Covenant credentials living within this region. We seek to uphold our spiritual, ethical and professional standards. We support the local cluster groups and sponsor retreats to build collegial relationships and a framework of accountability. The Committee on Ministerial Standing elected by the MA meets three times a year to interview and recommend persons for credentialing as Covenant pastors.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

"At times I have found life as a ministry spouse to be an isolating experience; spiritual direction has diminished that isolation by providing a safe environment to process life experiences. I have found compassion, understanding, insightful reflections, helpful questions, and a dedicated monthly space to reflect on God's fingerprints in my life."

Lori Carlson, spouse of pastor Steve Carlson
Turlock Covenant Church, Turlock, CA

ANNUAL YOUTH LEADERS RETREAT

"The retreat allows leaders from across the PSWC to connect with one another, receive encouragement, and share resources. I have formed great friendships—co-laborers in student ministry who inspire, support, and point me forward as we journey with God."

Carlos DeVitis, pastor to students
Peninsula Covenant Church, Redwood City, CA

COACHING

"The journey to arriving in my current pastoral role was strewn with some obstacles. If it weren't for the coaching and mentoring I received from the conference staff, I do not know if I would be in such a sweet spot in my ministry life. I'm indebted to a conference that cares for the health of its pastors as they transition from one ministry to another."

Bret Widman, pastor
River Life Covenant Church, Sacramento, CA

SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES

WOMEN MINISTRIES

The mission of Women Ministries is to advance God's kingdom through ministries that equip women to grow, serve, and reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The vision for mission is connecting women in transformational relationships and uniting them in Christ to impact our world.

Ministries Include:

- Connecting with God and one another through **ANNUAL RETREATS**
- **FURTHERING COMPASSION, MERCY, AND JUSTICE MINISTRY** through ministry of regional coordinators for Advocacy for Victims of Abuse, and Faith-in-Action grants
- **STRENGTHENING LOCAL MINISTRIES** to, with, and for women **THROUGH COACHES** who assist in evaluating local church women ministries and designing future ministries to meet needs of women of all ages with varied interests
- **SUPPORTING GLOBAL MISSION** through financial support for special projects, care for ECC women missionaries, sponsoring international guests at Triennial, and selling cottage industry products from mission fields

CHET (THE HISPANIC CENTER FOR THEOLOGICAL STUDIES)

The PSWC partners with CHET, an affiliate of North Park University and Theological Seminary located in Compton, CA. CHET's mission to equip Spanish speaking men and women for pastoral and lay ministry supports the PSWC's intentional expansion of ministries to serve the rapidly growing Latino population in this region. Learn more at www.chet.org



Hispanic Women's Retreat



CHET's New Home

RESOURCING FOR MINISTRY

The ministries outlined in this booklet are only possible through the faithful mission giving of PSWC churches and individual donors to the Pacific Southwest Conference. Thank you for your commitment and generosity. Your gifts advance God's Kingdom in our communities, throughout this region, and into our world.

CONFERENCE CENTERS

MISSION SPRINGS

Mission Springs began in 1926 when 45 acres in the Santa Cruz Mountains was purchased for \$6000 by the California Mission Sunday School and Young People's League. Today, the Mission Springs Camp and Conference Center is nearly 300 acres.

The ministry of Mission Springs touches the lives of over 20,000 guests and campers each year through Christian camping experiences and retreats serving Covenanters, outdoor education for schools, and a wide variety of conferences and events serving other groups. Mission Springs is focused on providing a special place, free of distractions, where people can feel the presence of our Lord and leave with a renewed spirit and closer relationship with Christ and their fellow believers.

WWW.MISSIONSPRINGS.COM

ALPINE

The history of Alpine Camp and Conference Center goes back to the early 1950s, when the vision for a campground to serve southern California churches emerged. The Southern California Covenant Youth Conference Board encouraged the churches and its own members to search for sites. In 1957, the Arrowhead Alpine Club near Lake Arrowhead was purchased for \$122,500 through donations from individuals and churches.

In the years that followed, Alpine has focused on providing a mountain top experience with Jesus Christ through Christian camping. The ministry of Alpine today touches the lives of over 11,000 guests each year, serving Covenanters and other Christian groups through a variety of retreats and events.

WWW.ALPINE-CC.ORG



Campers at Mission Springs



Campers at Alpine

THE PACIFIC SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE

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