

Board of Congregational Development



2007 Comprehensive Plan

THE PROCESS:

2007 MINISTRY INITIATIVES & MORE

The Board of Congregational Development of the California-Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church (BCD or The Board) presents the 2007 Comprehensive Plan for Congregational Development on behalf of the 8 Districts that comprise our Conference.

In 2006 the Annual Conference received a revised Assessment Process, developed by The Board of Laity, The Board of Congregational Development, in consultation with the Conference Leadership Team and Cabinet. There were 19 training sessions held throughout Southern California and Hawaii to ensure that every congregation had an opportunity to be exposed to this new tool and the many advantages it provides for our congregations and our conference. The Assessment is also referred to as the Congregational Covenant for Vital Ministry, which is a lay-driven process that calls each congregation to a point of accountability to its own mission and vision as well as creating ways for congregations to constantly evaluate themselves and improve in all areas of ministry. The Assessment is not something to be completed for the benefit of the District or the Conference. It is a self-assessment to be completed for the benefit of the local church.

During the training sessions we recorded that over 90% of our congregations were represented in those trainings. However, as you view the 8 district lifecycle charts you will see that the congregational completion rate is much, much lower than 90%. Some feedback that made it to the Board was in the area of language translations that were needed. The Board has taken this criticism very seriously and actually expended great energy and time preceding and during the actual training phase seeking individuals to translate the Assessment into Spanish and Korean, to no avail. To date, the document is still only available in English and will remain so until someone comes forward to assist with this work.

As we move into the 2007-2008 Conference year, the Board will continue to offer training to congregations in the other two phases of the Covenant: Fall 2006 (Assessment), Fall 2007 (Developing a Plan), Spring 2008 (Implementing a Plan), and Fall 2008 (Assessing a Plan). Sessions will be offered in various geographic locations throughout the Conference, at the discretion of the Cabinet.

MORE ABOUT THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS: The Board of Congregational Development does not develop the Conference Comprehensive Plan, we simply receive the data, compile it, and present it to the Annual Conference. The Board does not evaluate the data. The charts and initiatives contained in the Comprehensive Plan is exactly what were submitted by each District. Therefore, if you have questions pertaining to this document, please direct all questions to the Chairperson of your District Planning and Strategy Committee or its equivalent.

Each District employs its own evaluative methods to set ministry priorities and to determine placement of each congregation on the Lifecycle Chart. However, each District does rely heavily on information provided by the congregation via the Assessment. If congregations do not complete assessments, then the District can draw whatever conclusions it deems appropriate without any congregational input. This may not seem important or pertinent to every congregation, but it if/when a congregation desires to seek funding from BCD or other Conference entities, each congregation's placement on the lifecycle, record of completion of Assessment and inclusion as a ministry priority, could determine the fate of funding decisions and other ministry resources.

CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING: The Board offers several training opportunities for clergy and laity throughout the year, through our Academies (see www.cal-pac-growth.org) for dates, locations and registration information) and Institutes. We shall also continue to offer training around specific issues of church growth and use of evaluative tools (demographics, leadership styles, strategic planning). An addition to our cadre of training efforts already underway, we shall also implement training for District Planning and Strategy Committees (DPAS). The training will address issues of Committee composition, effective funding proposal review, strategic alignment of funds, establishing merger and closure protocols, etc. The Board feels this training will help all invested parties because the Board relies heavily upon DPAS and Cabinet to generate the applications and opportunities for BCD to fund.

MINISTRY FUNDING CYLCE: BCD has also changed the normal ministry funding cycle from Spring to Fall. That means that funding applications that have traditionally been due to DPAS in January will now be due in September. This change was made to facilitate a smoother relationship between the funding of ministries and the appointment of clergy to such ministries. The new cycle gives Cabinet six months to work on appointments to new starts and revitalizations, when with the old cycle there was really only 2 months. Of course there are some obvious disadvantages here as well. Individuals working on applications will have to work on them in July and August or even before then to get them in to the DPAS by September. DPAS will have to meet in mid-to-late September to consider funding proposals that will not go in effect until July of the following year. However, DPAS will now have the luxury of considering all funding proposals for all funding sources (BCD, Equitable Compensation, Jubilee, Congregational Loan, etc.) during the same period, which should cause DPAS committees to think more strategically about funding decisions for its ministries that are deemed priorities.

The Board exists to assist in the work and ministry of developing healthy, vital congregations. Everything BCD does is to fulfill its mission, which supports the church's mission to make disciples...Please share whatever insights you have about BCD or its work with any member of the Board. Also, visit our website often to see what other churches are learning and/or doing to make a difference in the lives of those whom they serve.

HAWAII DISTRICT 2007 MINISTRY PRIORITIES

2006 PRIORITIES

KAHUKU UMC

**CALVARY UM
MISSION**

FIRST TONGAN UMC

**OAHU HISPANIC
MINISTRY**

EWA BEACH UMC

2006 PRIORITIES

LONG BEACH FIRST

PARAMOUNT (HISPANIC) UMC

GARDENA FIRST UMC and FAITH UMC OF TORRANCE (Merger)

MAYWOOD UMC

GRACE, BELLFLOWER, DOMINGUEZ, WAYSIDE, AND LYNWOOD UMCs

LAKEWOOD TRINITY

UNITED WITH HOPE/AMANAKI KETAU FAKATAKAHA UMC

LONG BEACH DISTRICT 2007 MINISTRY PRIORITIES

NEW START (PRIOR LONG BEACH FIRST SITE)((now named “**The Neighborhood**”)). Pastor Sandy Olewine and Community Developer, Fidel Sanchez. This remains the top priority of the Long Beach District, to identify and initiate a multi-cultural ministry for this downtown Long Beach neighborhood. Work is progressing as generally planned, with the benchmarks of the new start plan for fall and winter quarter being met. Two small groups are meeting and several events (La Posada, and Carnival) have been scheduled and held. The District has been successful in providing the additional funds that were removed from the initial funding request to fit within BCD resources. Pastor Sandy has been making liaison contact with various groups and leaders in the Long Beach community and canvassing of the neighborhood in under way. There have been two meetings with the BHL group (Greg Bright), looking at various possibilities. Meeting and support with the coaches is ongoing and satisfactory. The current year plan includes an expansion to full time support for Fidel, starting in February.

PARAMOUNT HISPANIC MINISTRY, Ana and Orlando Barrios are co-pastors. This ministry is progressing well. There has been steady worship attendance, 40-55+. There is broad laity involvement including substantial youth. A large amount of work has been completed in repairing and preparing the church and also the parsonage. The people involved are very industrious and also very resourceful in doing fund raising projects and enhancing their financial stability. They are participating in District events. Their pastors have attended the BCD training week in San Diego. The Paramount group has paid 100% of the 2006 July-December apportionment. .

BELLFLOWER, DOMINGUEZ, WAYSIDE AND LYNWOOD CHURCHES. DP&S and the Vision Our Future committee continue to work together in finding ways to strengthen our small churches. Our DS continues to encourage these churches to consider alternatives of closing, merging or working as a satellite under the umbrella of a neighboring church.

ALSO: IDENTIFYING EMERGING HISPANIC MINISTRY.

ALSO: ADDITIONAL DISTRICT STAFF, FOR CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT/PROGRAM.

**2006
PRIORITIES**

**DOWNTOWN LOS
ANGELES**

**NATIVE AMERICAN
GATHERING IN
DOWNTOWN LOS
ANGELES**

**WEST LOS ANGELES
FIRST**

EPWORTH property

**PAN-ASIAN AMERICAN
CONGREGATION**

LOS ANGELES DISTRICT 2007 MINISTRY PRIORITIES

Playa Vista (Del Rey)

Native American downtown area

Crenshaw revitalization

La Trinidad/La Plaza Hispanic

St. Mark's revitalization

WLA Asian American Ministry

First UMC: Downtown LA

Tolutasi Pacific Islanders

PASADENA DISTRICT 2007 MINISTRY PRIORITIES

2006 PRIORITIES

TEMPLE CITY

ARCADIA: FAITH

LA PUENTE

GLENDALE: EAST LIGHT KOREAN

HACIENDA HEIGHTS: FIRST FILIPINO AMERICAN

WALNUT

BLESSED CHINESE

PASADENA: GRACE

Identify churches with the
potential for
“Re-Development”

Place an emphasis on
“Transitioning” churches

Continue to identify churches with the potential for “Re-Development”.

Sponsor a consultation/dialogue with congregations who are engaged in multi-cultural and/or multi-language ministries. The churches we have identified as priorities in this category are **San Gabriel First, Temple City First, and Temple City Faith.**

Sponsor a consultation/dialogue with a two clusters of congregations in order to explore issues within their specific geographic area. One cluster will include our congregations in the **Montrose/Crescenta Valley/La Canada/Tujunga** cluster. A second cluster will include congregations along Highways US395 and SR14.

Our District Revitalization priorities include **Tujunga, West Covina, and La Puente** plus whatever church emerge from objective #1.

RIVERSIDE DISTRICT 2007 MINISTRY PRIORITIES

2006 PRIORITIES

FRENCH VALLEY

EASTVALE (THE DAIRY PRESERVE

THE COACHELLA VALLEY

CHERRY VALLEY

THE RIVERSIDE DISTRICT'S HISPANIC

The **Fontana** and **Corona** congregations have been working with a shared Hispanic ministry outreach.

THE HIGH DESERT

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LAKE ELSINORE

Riverside District has reviewed the Covenants we have received, but that is less than half of the total.

We have sent a further letter to the churches who have not sent in their covenant.

Our priorities for start-ups continue to be **Grace Mountain** and **Eastvale**. We don't see a way forward to going ahead with the high desert plans until we have some stability at Grace Mountain and Eastvale.

The same churches are still moving to discontinuance and at least one placed itself in a transition mode although we had it in the self-supporting category.

SAN DIEGO DISTRICT 2007 MINISTRY PRIORITIES

2006 PRIORITIES

LATINO MINISTRIES:

Escondido Latino Ministry
Chula Vista First Latino
San Diego, Christ UMC /
Ministeros Hispanos
Calexico UMC – The
Calexico UMC

Conversations continue with
St. Paul and considering
Latino ministries in the
Brawley, El Centro, and
Holtville churches.

REVITALIZATION

Chapel of the Hills UMC

Chapel of the Valley UMC

Linda Vista UMC, English
and Vietnamese Ministries

Point Loma UMC

Lemon Grove UMC

Park Hill UMC

SANTA ANA DISTRICT 2007 MINISTRY PRIORITIES

2006 PRIORITIES

The DPAS plans to continue working through the Mission Centers structure this year to help congregations and clusters to determine how to be as effective as possible within their ministry context.

Santa Ana

(realignment and definition of mission)

Spurgeon (R)

First (T)

Grand (T)

El Getsemani (Mission)

Whittier

(realignment and definition of mission)

First (SS)

Evangelical (T)

East (SS)

Trinidad (E)

Anaheim

(revitalization through realignment of shared facility arrangement and next generation multicultural ministry)

W. Anaheim

Anaheim Vietnamese

Vietnamese Ministry at Westminster Good Shepherd – need training for pastor

Santa Margarita – debt load

Light of the Canyon – debt load

2006 PRIORITIES

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY CONSULTATION:

The San Fernando Valley is a unique situation, where church planters planted several churches in the post World War II boom.

There are 22 churches in the Valley. Two are considered very strong and several more are self-sustaining. The District Planning & Strategy Committee has done a windshield tour and has been in conversation about what to do. The basic plan is to work with a consultant and a team of other professionals to develop a strategy that will help the churches in the Valley to find ways to improve upon their collective ministry and presence in the Valley.

SANTA BARBARA DISTRICT 2007 MINISTRY PRIORITIES

All San Fernando Valley Churches as part of the Consultation and Revitalization

Newhall Area New Church Start

Santa Clarita Korean Start-Up Ministry

Lompoc Hispanic Start-Up Ministry

Paso Robles Cross Point Church Restart