

LA CANADA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

626 Foothill Blvd, La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011

May 2021

Mission Study



LA CAÑADA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
VISION SUMMARY

BE & MAKE
DISCIPLES of JESUS

IDENTITY



WE ARE GENERATIONS
UNITED IN CHRIST

MISSION



ON A MISSION TO BE AND MAKE
DISCIPLES OF JESUS

Purpose Statement

We are on a mission to be and make disciples of Jesus

Introduction

La Canada Presbyterian Church (LCPC) was established in 1946 and, in the spirit of Jesus Christ, ministers to an intergenerational congregation with an emphasis on families, outreach, and the community. Supported by Biblically-focused teaching, LCPC encourages adults, youth and children to be Christ's people in the church and in the world.

We aspire to be known as a caring church to our members, attenders, and the community at large. We have fostered many traditional and entrepreneurial ministries within LCPC. Our ministry programs include Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, Parent Education, Spiritual Formation and Caring Ministries, Adult Ministries and others.

We are invested in a spectrum of Outreach partnerships (approximately 20 local partners, and 14 global partners), whom we support through a combination of service and financial contributions; and engage the congregation directly in various Outreach programs (e.g., Christmas Market, Serve Days and "Thriving Children Thriving Families" initiatives).

LCPC is known for our comprehensive and high-quality Music & Worship Arts, which include a number of different choirs (Chancel, Children's, Handbell), Praise Band, Orchestra, and monthly public performances. We have a history of hosting various community programs including Boy Scouts and AI- Anon, and we have numerous points of contact with Fuller Seminary. These ministry and outreach programs are supported by an exceptional campus facility.

Membership and Attendance

At the time of this study, LCPCs registered membership is 1083, with an average weekly worship service attendance of 519 in 2019. These numbers have remained relatively consistent over the past 5 years. With online worship dominating 2020, attendance numbers are a bit uncertain, but we believe that attendance is actually up with people having fewer conflicts, and the inclusion of many out-of-town worshippers. While we want to grow and retain effective scale, we are more concerned with the vibrancy of our congregation than we are the attendance numbers.

In addition, over 700 parents and children participate in our Parent Education programs annually, over 120 people participate regularly in our children's and youth ministry, and over 100 people participate monthly in our music arts program, all reflecting a combination of members and non-members.

Our membership identifies as 84% white, 8% Asian, 6% Middle Eastern, with the remainder of African and Hispanic descent. We have observed an increased number of Asian attendees over recent years. The communities that comprise our church are, while predominantly white, significantly more ethnically diverse than our membership. We view this as a discrepancy our church family would like to address. At the same time, we want to remain keenly focused on our existing membership. Leadership of LCPC proudly identifies itself as a non-partisan church that is not overtly conservative or liberal, but welcoming to all who follow Jesus Christ.

Fellowship/Discipleship

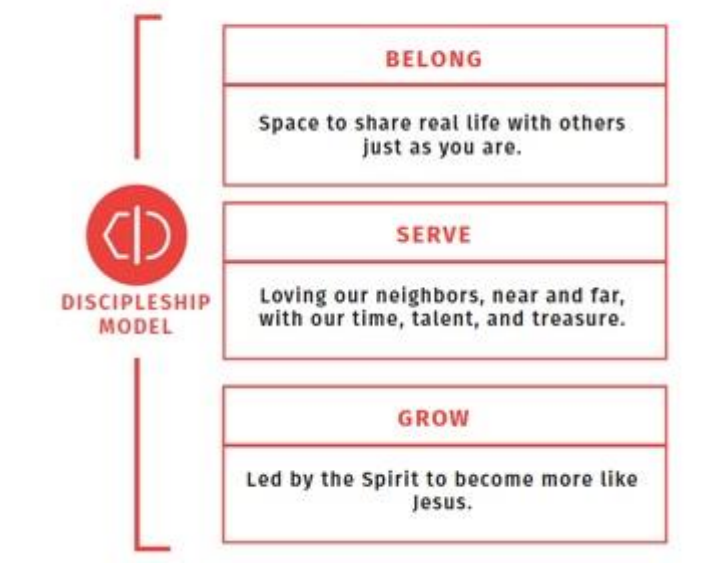
In response to Christ's command to "go and make disciples", we seek to share the good news and love of God with those in our community, throughout the LA area, and all over the world. La Canada Flintridge (LCF), population 21000, is an affluent suburb of Los Angeles nestled in the foothills of the San Gabriel mountains. While located and rooted in LCF, approximately 50% of our members live in the adjacent communities of La Crescenta, Glendale, Pasadena, Tujunga and others. The LCF community is known for a strong educational emphasis (public and private), small-town feel, and family values.

While our church is embedded in the LCF community, it is surrounded by the vast economic, ethnic, educational, cultural diversity of Pasadena, Glendale and Los Angeles. We aspire to reach out to and engage those around us in the wider area, both church and unchurched. As our mission statement says, we are committed to being serious disciples of Jesus Christ and helping others to do the same. We continue to work at creating intentional ways to make disciples, but we continue to search for a more structured framework to do this well. We value the collaborative leadership of growing disciples working together to accomplish the mission of Jesus in our world and we engage a wide range of outreach ministries, locally and globally.

To address the needs of our community, our various ministries include Children (Sunday school, infant care, mid-week programs, children's choirs, camp programs, VBS), Youth (Jr. High and High School worship programs, fellowship, small groups, mission trips, camps), Parent Education (a highly impactful and recognized program spanning 40+ years for parents of children from infancy to high school), Adult Spiritual Formation (over 40 Life Groups, special classes and forums, Women's and Men's programs and retreats, prayer services, racial reconciliation, peace and justice ministries, contemplative ministry and other spiritual formation programs) and Caring (individual and group support, lay counseling, Stephen Ministry, Deacons, visitation and assistance).

We offer frequent New Member classes for persons who attend church regularly and are interested in becoming members in order to educate attendees about the Presbyterian faith, to introduce them to ministers and staff, and to provide information about LCPC's history, Mission Priorities, programs and resources.

In the past couple of years church leadership and the congregation have developed a Discipleship Model that encompasses our desire to enable all members of our church family, and the communities in which we live to GROW spiritually in our relationship to Jesus through our BELONGING to the family of God through meaningful relationships in the context of a local church, and SERVING the people of God both regionally and globally.



Mission Priorities

In support of our mission and discipleship model, LCPC has been aligning programs, staffing and lay leadership around a set of Mission Priorities that reflect our historical and renewed focus on families, transitioning young adults, the broad communities in which our members live and work, and our middle and older generations. We balance these priorities with our ongoing and very intentional support, involvement and service of our core church family. We are and want to remain, generations united in Christ.

LCPC's priorities reflect the diversity of our members' and communities' areas of interest, needs and opportunities, and include:

Families: We hope to equip a new generation of families to be and make disciples of Jesus

"Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise"
Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Young Adults: We hope to come alongside our young adults as they discover God's love and purpose for them exactly how and where they are now

"One generation will declare your works to another".
Psalm 145:4

Community Outreach: We hope to be a church on mission within the neighborhoods in which we live, and the broader communities that surround us.

"Love your neighbor as yourself."
Matthew 22:39

Our Core Membership: We hope to continue to care deeply for, and grow in Jesus with our middle and older generations that are the core and living history of our church.

"...to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."
Ephesians 3:21

At a high level, our organizational model reflects our priorities through four core groups: Worship, Family, Congregational Care, and Outreach.

- LCPCs annual financial budget (2021) includes approximately \$2,700,000 for General Operations (including all ministries), and \$200,000 for Faith Missions
- Current full-time staff (May 2021) include approximately 30 across pastoral, ministry and support teams

Worship

Since our foundation, our church has cultivated a deep and rich adoration and joyful praise of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through a dedication to God's instruction and teaching from the Bible, coupled with spiritual and musical worship across a variety of formats. In recognition that we are 'generations united in Christ' – a 'blended Church' if you will – our portfolio of worship services seeks to unite our entire congregation in the core Word of God, and recognize that our community of disciples feels a deep connection to differing worshiping styles.

While historically LCPC has employed several service portfolios (between 2-4 on Sundays), coupled with various mid-week offerings, we have leveraged in the past few years a model reflecting:

- Two Sunday services – one traditional at 9am, and one contemporary at 10:30am. The sermon and core messaging are consistent across each; with the main difference being primarily the music style (traditional and praise) and relative level of formality.
- Heavy and growing leverage of YouTube, Facebook and other social media to connect with a larger faith community locally, around the country and globally
- A very intentional focus on fostering Life Groups as a core place of worship, caring for one another, and spiritual formation
- Pastor-led intra-week bible studies
- Various youth and children's ministries focused on age/culturally appropriate worship styles
- Age-group focused worship and care for older adults in the form of Voyagers and Seafarers Mariners, and Anchor Lunches
- Formal and ad-hoc women's and men's activities
- Adult and Children's Choir, full orchestra, Handbell Choir, Praise Band, jazz-ensemble and other music oriented worshipping focal points. In fact, our music events and concerts are so popular they overflow the facilities and attract people outside our geographical area, serving as a meaningful outreach program.
- Many others...

We are a congregation who have learned to adapt to and thrive in unforeseen circumstances. COVID-19 shifted our method of worship as we went completely online – with a team of staff and lay-leaders learning how to design, plan and deliver purely online worship and congregational care services; and recently hybrid services. LCPC members are immensely proud of our core pastoral staff, as well as our non-clergy staff of technology, facilities, finance, administrative and congregational care (across all age groups), and our lay leadership that come alongside them.

While we have been anxious to come together in person (and in May 2021 have begun to do so), we recognize the benefit of integrating a livestreaming/online component even when we are 'back to normal' – however that evolves – in serving people who live out of town, are traveling, or are just experiencing life in a way that precludes in-person worship. The Apostle Paul said it best: "When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up" (1 Corinthians 14:25 NIV).

Local and Global Service

As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. (John 17:18)

This line, part of Jesus' great prayer for his disciples just before he was betrayed, is a succinct summary of our call as disciples. We are sent into the world just as Jesus was. We are called to continue the work that Jesus did in his earthly ministry, that is, to proclaim and demonstrate the good news of God's love, grace, and transforming power through word and action. That is what we are doing when we serve. We demonstrate God's good news in action as we share God's love in tangible ways. We join in God's transforming work and are ourselves transformed as we deepen our discipleship and grow in becoming more like Christ.

We seek to serve Christ by using our time, talents and resources to love those around us. Serving inside the church, in our local communities, and alongside our global partners, we love God by loving those around us.

We have service opportunities with local ministry partners.

There are opportunities to serve weekly, monthly or periodically with our ministry partners in the local and greater Los Angeles area.

There are also ways to serve with our global ministry partners.

Our prayer is that through service with and support of our global ministry partners, we will better understand the global nature of faith and we would find community, joy, and a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. We also offer mission trips internationally to learn and grow as disciples by developing an understanding through direct engagement with Christians in other countries.

There are ways to serve within LCPC.

Whether you are passionate about leadership, hospitality, youth, children, music and the arts, caring for those sick or grieving, or administration, there are many ways to plug in!