

# Northern California Conference Executive Secretary's Report

ADDING

*People* TO GOD'S CHURCH

## WORKING FOR THE HARVEST

"And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved". (Acts 2:47 NKJV)





# 2020

## SECOND QUARTER MEMBERSHIP REPORT

ADD

Prior Quarter Membership 41,007

- Baptized.....45
- Profession of Faith .....7
- Transfer (Letter).....118
- Adjustment.....0
- Total.....170

DROPPED

- Transfer (Letter).....129
- Death.....75
- Removed (Apostasy).....18
- Missing .....11
- Adjustments.....12
- Total.....245

Current Membership

40,932



147  
**CHURCHES**

17  
**COMPANIES**

# NCC CHURCHES AND COMPANIES

164+



# 2nd Quarter Statistical BAPTISMAL AND PROFESSIONS OF FAITH REPORT

2018

Baptisms  
112

POF's  
21

Total  
133

2019

Baptisms  
172

POF's  
72

Total  
244

2020

Baptisms  
45

POF's  
7

Total  
52



**Number of churches that reported at least one baptism in the second quarter:**

21



**Bronze Medal**

Vallejo Central  
4 baptisms

Woodland Spanish  
4 baptisms



**Silver Medal**

Lodi Spanish  
5 baptisms  
2 POF



**Gold Medal**

Oroville  
14 baptisms  
1 POF



**Honorable Mention**

Georgetown (24)  
1 baptisms



## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE GUIDELINES FOR BAPTISM

# During the COVID-19 Pandemic

In light of all that is transpiring globally with the pandemic and its aftereffects, we remember the words of our Lord Jesus Christ: *"And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come"* (Matthew 24:14, NLT).

"The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world" (*Acts of the Apostles*, 9:1).

Water baptism is a core belief of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Not only did Jesus set the example of water baptism by being baptized Himself, but He later commanded the Church to *"make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"* (Matthew 28:19, NIV).

Since the COVID-19 virus first spread, the Church has encountered daunting challenges as it finds ways to move its mission forward. However, the call of the Gospel Commission is still the core purpose of the Church, and it is deeply ingrained in the hearts of pastors in the Northern California Conference (NCC). In light of COVID-19, we seek to carry out our mission in innovative, socially responsible, and safe ways.

The guidelines presented here – for performing a baptism during this COVID-19 pandemic – are within the subsequent policy parameters suggested by the *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual, 19th edition* (2015):

1. "The Church believes in baptism by immersion and accepts into membership only those who have been baptized in this manner." (p. 44)

2. "The pastor, with the assistance of the elders, is expected to plan for and lead out in all spiritual services, such as Sabbath morning worship and prayer meeting, and should officiate at the communion service and baptism." (p. 32)

3. "In the absence of an ordained pastor, an elder shall request the conference president to arrange for the baptism of those desiring to unite with the church." (p. 75)

4. "An elder should not officiate in the service without first obtaining permission from the conference president." (p. 75)

NCC administration presents the following guidelines for baptisms performed in NCC churches. As Christians, we have a responsibility to take care of each other and ourselves. We ask that you partner with us as we seek your safety and the protection of our new believers and members. In addition to these guideline, the NCC expects that our churches will comply with the guidance of state and local authorities in responding to the COVID-19 virus.

## During the COVID-19 Pandemic

- ✓ Everyone who participates or is present for a baptismal service should follow **safe protocols** such as wearing masks, sanitizing hands frequently, and practicing social distancing.
- ✓ Keep the entire baptismal service brief, since we know a big part of staying healthy right now is related to the amount of time people occupy the same space.
- ✓ It is best to perform a baptism with only one candidate or one couple at any one event. It is essential to minimize the number in any group that gathers.
- ✓ The best place to perform baptisms is outside. Consider a swimming pool or a portable baptistry outside. However, if this is not possible, then using the church baptistry is allowed if proper precautions are taken. While chlorine in the water helps to sanitize the virus, most baptistries have limited chlorinated water. (Please use the proper amount of chlorine: <https://bit.ly/3KRMaI>)
- ✓ Baptisms can be livestreamed or recorded for broadcast at a later time. However, minimize the number of media technicians present, and be sure to practice **safe protocols**.
- ✓ As long as our churches remain closed to in-
- ✓ Any comments made when presenting the candidate should be done in a way that avoids talking in close contact. The baptism should be done quickly so the candidate and pastor will not be close together in the water for an extended period of time.
- ✓ The pastor should wear a mask or a face shield at all times while in the water with the baptismal candidate.
- ✓ Many baptismal candidates may not be able to wear a mask since they are being baptized. However, a candidate can cover his/her mouth while being baptized or choose to hold a handkerchief over his/her mouth as he/she is immersed in the water.
- ✓ Here are a couple of options that a pastor may consider when performing a baptism during the COVID-19 pandemic: The pastor – in the presence of the candidate and with proper physical distancing – pronounces the words of baptism, and the candidate bends his/her knees to go under the water while the pastor rests his/her hand on the candidate's head or shoulder. Another option is for the pastor and the candidate to follow the same process without the pastor touching the candidate.
- ✓ Before the baptism, the candidate should be aware of the safety precautions being taken so he/she can help in every way possible to make this a safe



### Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

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# 2015-2020 Statistical Removal of MEMBERSHIP REPORT

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
50	81	82	44	44	57
Totals					
359					

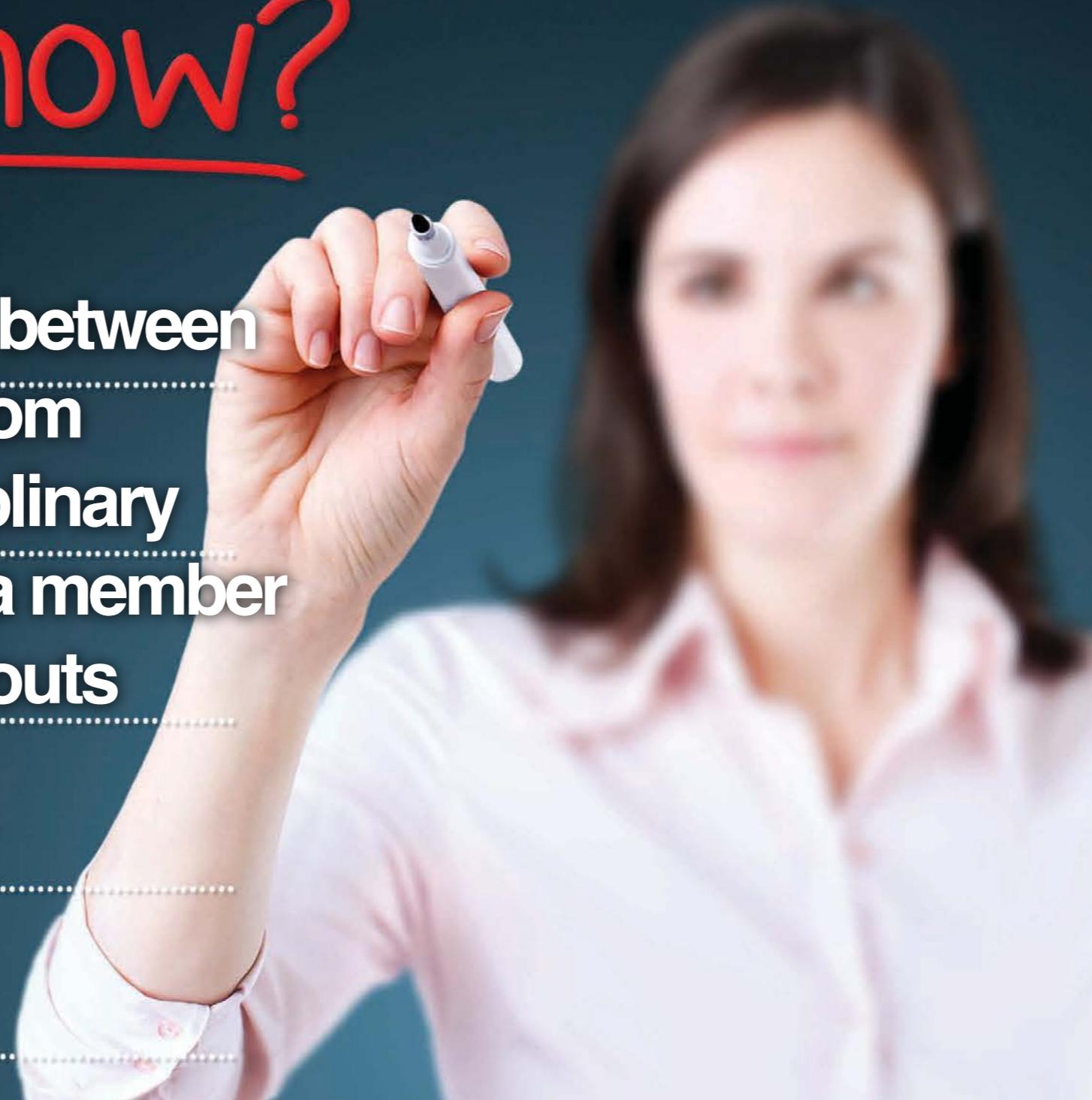


“No church officer should advise, no committee should recommend, nor should any church vote, that the name of a wrongdoer shall be removed from the church books, until the instruction given by Christ has been faithfully followed.”-*Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual, p.57, 19th Edition*



# Did You Know?

1. **What is the difference between Removing a person from membership for disciplinary issues and removing a member because of ‘Whereabouts unknown’?**
2. ....
3. ....
4. ....
5. ....



If, however, members move without leaving a forwarding address and make no effort to contact or report to the church, and the church cannot locate them for at least two years, then the church may certify that it has tried without success to locate the members



and the members may be removed by a vote of the church. The clerk should record in the membership record: "Whereabouts unknown. Voted to designate as missing."-*Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual, p.66, 19th Edition*





NCCSDA

We still *Believe* November 4-7, 2020



## **Prayer and Praise**

November 4-6 | 7:00-8:00 p.m.

## **Mid-term Report**

November 7 | 4:30-6:00 p.m.

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