

GB-21-1182

**Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Pacific Southwest
Richie Sanchez, Regional Minister**

Contact

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Regional Ministry Team:

Richie Sanchez – Regional Minister and President (Ordained)
Jo Ann Bynum, Assoc. Regional Minister, Director, African - American Ministries (Ordained)
Francisco Ramos, Assoc. Regional Minister, Director, Hispanic Ministries (Ordained)
Young Jun Yang, Assoc. Regional Minister, Co-Director, NAPAD Ministries (Ordained)
Young Lan Kim, Assoc. Regional Minister, Co-Director, NAPAD Ministries (Ordained)
B.J. Barlow, Associate Regional Minister, Youth and Young Adult Ministries,

Acting Camp Manager, Loch Leven Camp & Conference Center (Ordained)
Siobhan Lopez, Youth and Young Adult Ministries Specialist (Ordained)
Tanya Lopez, Disciples Women Ministry
Candyce Black–Wells, Human Resources Specialist
Jenny Crosswhite, Regional Assembly Coordinator

Regional Operations Staff:

Bruce Indermill, Sr. Administrator
Michel Johnson, Special Assistant to the Regional Minister
Bobby Esber, Finance Director
Branden Hendricks, Operations Lead
Denise Solis, Receptionist
Alisa Fraumeni Mittelstaedt, Communications Coordinator

Loch Leven Staff:

Emilio Hernandez, Facilities Manager
David Hernandez, Facilities Assistant



The following is provided for information to the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

Our Vision, *to be a faithful, growing regional church that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice (Micah 6:8); and,*

Our Mission, *to be and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps “to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)*

Number of Congregations: 96 (including 19 congregations in formation)

Total Members: 9,337

States included in Region: California Southern, Nevada Southwest, and Hawaii

We believe God calls the Pacific Southwest Region to be a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. Our region thrives, in the midst of a multitude of diverse landscapes, languages and cultures. In mission and worship, you will discover congregations providing heartfelt ministry and song in English, Spanish, Korean, Chinese, Tagalog, Samoan, and Chuukese. Our regional leadership, ministry team and staff are committed to extending our congregations' mission and ministry from our doorsteps unto *"to the ends of the earth."*

Our Goals, *1) To be One Church; 2) To be a Missional Church; 3) To nurture and develop vital, healthy, growing congregations; 4) To be a well-organized and well administered Region.*

The end of 2019, we experienced the beginnings of a new Regional Minister. An aggressive travel calendar provided opportunities to meet clergy, lay leaders, units and to experience worship with congregations throughout all of our states. In these same efforts, we helped launch and re-launch clergy district meetings to continue the building of our *One Church*. As the 2019 year ended, our regional board of directors made difficult decisions and concluded its work with *Hatchery LA*. Our Region continues in its strong commitments to *nurture and develop vital, healthy, growing congregations*.

In California, March 13, 2020 became "an ominous date" for many as the news of stay-at-home orders were issued because of the spread of COVID-19. As the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic, our congregations and clergy worked faithfully to honor protocols while searching for ways to serve their communities far and wide. Our regional ministry leadership, ministry team, and administrative staff were deployed organizing its resources and supportive efforts under the banner of *PSWR Inside Out*. Our Regional teams focused their energies into five areas: 1. Providing Clergy and Church Moderators opportunities with space for exchange and sharing vital information 2. Assisting Congregations with worship online 3. Providing Clergy with means for self-care and mental health support 4. Providing congregations, clergy and units with emergency economic support 5. Partnerships support for congregations helping to address Community Food Insecurity. These five efforts and many, many more *helped call our PSWR Disciples to take the church inside, out!*

Our congregations rallied to "pivot" their mission and ministry in *New and Living Ways*. Many incorporated virtual online platforms, social media and low-tech ways to support a vital worship life. Using guidelines from the CDC, some worked and connected with hybrid approaches (online and in-person). Worship services on conference calls were enjoyed by other congregations, *comparing these to the days when worship and a homily was popular on the radio*. There was / is synergy, tech savvy clergy providing learnings, help and support for other colleagues to extend their ministries. We are grateful to all of our General Ministry partners in the Wider Church who in one way or another provided vital resources (wide communication,

spiritual care and financial support) to meet the challenges and disasters of our days. Too, California faced a record-setting year of wildfires and flooding rains in Hawaii. Thank you to Week of Compassion for its ministry and constant solidarity in disasters.

Our Regional Assembly Planning Committee took on the challenges of planning a Virtual Assembly on October 16-17, 2020. Courageous in all that was at hand and still before us, our virtual Regional Assembly was celebrated with a record-breaking attendance under the theme: *The New and Living Way*, Hebrews 10:20. In this Assembly, we were able to lament, hear experiences and lift our collective voices to affirm that Black Lives Matter.

Our regional ministry continues to further the priorities of the church in the following ways:

Becoming a Pro-reconciling / Anti-racist church:

Our Pro-Reconciling and Anti-Racism efforts have continued with training and education made available in several languages. We encourage local partnerships and grant opportunities that engage our PSWR congregations in programs or projects that help define racism, engage its local context, educate and respond to the effects of racism in their corresponding communities.

Formation of new congregations:

Our New Church Development Committee continues to support the work of our newest church plants and congregations under care. We are excited about newer potentials and possibilities.

Transformation of current congregations:

Our Transformation Team continues to provide grant funding in support of pastors and congregations, working toward a new and living way. Newer efforts are being explored.

Leadership development:

Our Region continues to see growth and development from its partnered support of the Disciples Seminary Foundation Certificate of Ministry Studies and Diploma of Ministry Studies programs (DSF Director, Rev. Xose Escamilla, San Diego, CA). Our region partnered with Arizona and Northern-California and Nevada in a series of events focused on leadership development. In 2020, our Tri-Regions hosted virtual events for women and men. Follow www.doc-west.org for more details. Too, we've used the newest growing culture of webinars and virtual meetings to provide education and training. Themes such as: *Trauma Informed Church*, *Grieving in the Pandemic*, *Trauma and the Psychological Life Cycle of a Disaster*.

Prayers are welcomed. Like many regions, we have walked and continue to do so with a few congregations having made / are considering difficult decisions to conclude their visible ministries. We heed of the Word and Spirit, which calls us to move into a *New and Living Way*.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has accepted the following agencies, corporations, and/or programs as ministries of the Pacific Southwest Region:

Chapman University
Orange, California
Nancy Brink, Dir. of Church Relations

Eastmont Christian Center
Los Angeles, California
Teresa Palacios, Executive Director

Disciples Seminary Foundation
Claremont, California
Belva Brown Jordan, Interim President

All Peoples Community Center
Los Angeles, California
Saundra Bryant, Executive Director

Project Impact
Lynwood, California
Matthew Harris, Director

Camp Grounds

Bethany Pines Campgrounds
11157 Cuddy Valley Road
Frazier Park, CA 93225
Management/Contact:
Samuel Ramirez
11471 Vanowen St.
North Hollywood, CA 91605
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Loch Leven Conference Center
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De Luz Retreat Center
39775 De Luz Road
Fallbrook, CA 92028
Casa de Oracion, San Diego
201 Fir Street
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