

Northern California-Nevada Report to the General Board
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The Christian Church of Northern California-Nevada continues its ministry of strengthening congregations, ministers, ministries. As the following reports indicate we continue to serve the 60 congregations, members, and friends of the Region.

Women's Ministry and Education Ministry, Monica Cross, staff

An accomplishment from 2025

Pain in the Pews Workshop

On January 25, 2025, Woman of Spirit and Action (WOSA) hosted an event on a difficult but prevalent subject that the Church must acknowledge. PAIN IN THE PEWS was developed as a symposium on Intimate Partner Violence to inform clergy and lay leaders in the church on the steps that need to be taken to support and combat domestic violence. Domestic Violence or IPV is a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another partner.

As the women of the Church, of God's church, we can no longer stand by and allow misogyny, patriarchy, cultural stigma, and fear of retaliation to continue to prohibit women, and even men, from speaking out against their abusers. Of all the social problems confronted by the church, domestic violence is surely one of the most misunderstood and mismanaged by church leaders. Clergy misunderstandings and mismanagement of domestic violence reveal that victims often feel that clergy are of little to no help. There are approximately 10 million people in the United States who experience domestic violence every year.

PAIN IN THE PEWS sought to not only highlight the stories of 3 dynamic and courageous women who "got out," it also sought to provide education to clergy on why it is important to condemn domestic violence from the pulpit and to develop ministries that can support abuse victims and their perpetrators so that the cycle of violence can be broken.

Fall Retreat and Spring Renewal

Fall Retreat theme - "Which Way is Up: Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled," based on Psalm 37 23-24 John 16:13. Keynote speaker - Rev. Dr. Boyung Lee of Iliff School of Theology. The Fall Retreat was a call, amid these complex and challenging times, to focus on the profound love that God has for us through Jesus Christ. It offers a grace that comforts us as we reflect on who we are and what we seek in life, all while enjoying the

support of Disciples women. The Fall Retreat emphasized that, even during these days of theological malpractice and denial of empathy, the Holy Spirit continues to guide us—reflecting, resting, revitalizing, reuniting with friends, making new connections, nurturing a cherished sisterhood, and deepening our relationships with God.

Spring Renewal theme – Finding Peace in the Midst of Chaos. Keynote speaker – Rev. Elaine Schoepf. The theme served as a reminder that Disciples Women are called to trust the Holy Spirit as they do their work, and as they experience the sacred rest each has been called to in these times. The Spring Renewal was a time to reconnect, to take a break. It was about self-care and overall wellness. The great accomplishment was creating a sacred space for attendees to relax and reenergize amid chaos. It emphasizes a comprehensive reset and rejuvenation of mind, body, and spirit.

A hope for 2026

The ongoing work of Women's Ministries is to cultivate strong and courageous leadership. Women have long served as spiritual leaders, advocates for justice, and pillars of faith communities. My hope is that Women's Ministry actively encourages women to step into leadership roles, deepen their theological understanding, and recognize the power of their voices within the church and the wider community.

Another hope is that the Women's Ministry remains responsive to the changing needs of women today. Women are balancing multiple responsibilities, navigating complex social realities, and seeking meaningful spiritual connection in new ways. Women's Ministry can provide resources, mentorship, education, and support that address real-life challenges while nurturing spiritual resilience and hope.

Challenges ahead for 2026

The challenge for Women's Ministry is to build an Intergenerational Ministry in which Women of all ages attend retreats and workshops. An intergenerational women's ministry affirms that the Spirit moves powerfully when teenagers, young adults, midlife women, and elders gather in shared purpose. Building an intergenerational ministry is not simply about programming—it is about cultivating sacred relationships that reflect the fullness of the Body of Christ.

The keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Boyung Lee of Iliff School of Theology, introduced the following questions that inspired an attendee from the Christian Church of Pacific Grove to take them back to their congregation for further discussion. "What kind of hospitality do we offer?" How do we integrate otherness into the congregation? What does it look like to bring the margins into the center? The following words stuck with the member, "It is the courage to stand beside others where they truly are to share in their pain and dignity. The words of Rev. Dr. Boyung Lee inspired this attendee in their congregational ministry.

Report on the Education Committee's ministry, “Foundations for Faith and Ministry”

An accomplishment from 2025

To address the challenge of fragmented and administratively burdensome training resources, the CCNC-N Education Committee explored the concept of a centralized training repository. Recognizing the potential of a more organized and accessible system, we have implemented Moodle as our Learning Management System (LMS) to coordinate and manage our online workshops.

As we began working with Moodle, we quickly realized its potential as a comprehensive training hub for all regions. The LMS will allow us to consolidate resources and streamline the delivery of essential classes, ensuring that training is available on a regular and ongoing basis.

Hope for 2026

We are proud to launch **‘The Foundations of Faith and Ministry,’** a centralized educational hub designed to streamline training for ministers and lay leaders across the U.S. and Canada. By leveraging a regional Learning Management System (LMS), we are removing the administrative weight from our regional offices and creating a unified standard of excellence. Our 2026 goal is to build a self-sustaining ecosystem by recruiting expert facilitators and driving robust enrollment, ensuring our leaders have the high-quality tools they need to meet the evolving needs of their communities.

Challenges ahead

To achieve our vision of a centralized LMS, we must address three primary operational challenges:

- **Capacity & Recruitment:** Our current facilitator pool is insufficient to meet the educational requirements for all ministers. We must launch a robust recruitment and certification initiative for **Anti-Racism** and **Boundaries** workshops, while simultaneously engaging new facilitators for general faith and continuing education units (CEUs).
- **Stakeholder Buy-In:** Success relies on the willing participation of existing regional facilitators. We must demonstrate the value of the LMS as a tool that enhances—rather than replaces—their local impact.
- **Standardization of Core Requirements:** Standardizing Anti-Racism and Boundaries training across diverse regions requires delicate navigation. Our 2026 objective is to facilitate high-level consultations with Regional Ministers and standards committees. This foundational dialogue is necessary to form a dedicated commission in 2027, tasked with drafting the formal standards for General Assembly approval.

Youth Ministry

Charlotte Thompson, our Youth and Outdoor Ministry staff has been busy renewing and rebuilding the Region's youth ministry. The ways youth are supported include providing scholarships to our campground, Community of the Great Commission. We held a joint youth event, Feb Camp, that included youth from the Northern California Nevada Conference, United Church of Christ. We also offer some scholarship funds to UCC youth attending our camps. Additionally, we are free to attend boundary training and anti-racism training offered by the Region or the Conference.

Men's Ministry, NAPAD, New Church, Training and Care **Rev. Kyung-Min D Lee, Associate Regional Minister**

Accomplishments from 2025

NAPAD

With the Region's financial support, the NAPAD team purchased 100 tickets to the SF Asian Art Museum for our local churches. This initiative was meant help them explore Asian heritage and history during Asian American Heritage Month in May. Thus far, five (5) churches have participated in the visitation.

T&C

The Training and Care committee approved an ordination in May and participated in two ordination services held in January and November.

Men's Ministry

The Executive Committee gathered in person for an end-of-year celebration at Cattlemen's in Dixon on the evening of November 8. During this gathering, they celebrated their committee chair's upcoming retirement and his birthday. Eight men and their spouses attended.

New Church Movement

While there were no specific accomplishments to report, the committee is currently working on a draft "Handbook" designed for new church planters and for those churches considering affiliation with the Disciples.

Hopes for 2026

NAPAD

Continue to provide two key programs: Lunar New Year Luncheon in February and Celebration of NAPAD Week in September.

T&C

Hope to complete the "Manual" and adopt "By-laws" for the ministry.

Men's Ministry

Establish new leadership for the ongoing men's ministry and its gatherings.

New Church Movement

Restructure the committee to focus on leadership development and provide support to new churches to help them nurture and grow.

Challenges ahead**NAPAD**

Due to their distinct cultures and traditions, achieving unity within NAPAD remains a challenge.

T&C

In recent years, there have been no incoming students or individuals discerning a call to the ordination process.

Men's Ministry

We need to engage young people by encouraging them to join the committee and participate in the ministry.

New Church Movement

Similar to T&C, there seems to be little interest in planting new churches, making it unfeasible unless fully supported by the denomination.

A congregational story of strength or hope in your region that the General Board members can share with their own congregations

Our pilot program proved that centralized learning does more than just organize data—it organizes souls. When Dr. Sharon Jacobs launched “*Revelation Remix*” in 2025, she saw 24 participants engage in a deep dive into scripture that extended far beyond the classroom. For one layperson, the experience was so transformative that it served as the catalyst for his decision to seek ordination. As we look toward 2026, we aren't just building educational resources; we are building a gateway for the Spirit to move, providing the tools that turn "required training" into "divine inspiration" for ministers and laity alike.

Max's Story

“After attending an inspiring workshop at the 2025 CCNC-N Region’s Annual Gathering Revelations Remix” led by Dr. Sharon Jacobs, Maxwell Erwin began to feel a divine nudge. Max and his family are members of First Christian Church in Chico, where he has faithfully served in a variety of leadership roles over the past decade. As a small-business owner, he brings strong administrative skills to his congregation—but he also carries a deep and growing heart for ministry.

When the region began experimenting with a new online educational platform, we offered a course on the Book of Revelation. The class was a tremendous success. At one point, Max asked, “So is this what seminary is like?” His pastor replied, “It could be.”

Soon afterward, Max was introduced to Christy Newton, who helped him enroll in a graduate-level course. That experience confirmed what he was beginning to sense: God was calling him into ministry.

Not long ago, answering such a call typically required uprooting one’s family, relocating for two or three years to pursue a Master of Divinity degree, and hoping to secure a full-time congregational position upon graduation. In a time when fewer congregations can sustain full-time pastoral leadership, that traditional pathway is no longer realistic—or even necessary—for many called leaders.

Because our region is reimagining how we form and support ministers, new avenues are opening. Flexible, accessible, high-quality educational opportunities now allow leaders like Max to discern and pursue their call without leaving their communities, businesses, and families behind. Rather than forcing gifted leaders into an outdated paradigm, we are building pathways that align with today’s church and tomorrow’s mission.

Max’s story is not just about one person’s call—it is a sign of what becomes possible when the church adapts faithfully. When we remove unnecessary barriers and expand access to theological

education, we empower leaders to say “yes” to God’s invitation in ways that are sustainable, contextual, and deeply rooted in the communities they already serve.

An additional consideration for the Christian Church of Northern California-Nevada is that LaTaunya Bynum who has been Regional Minister since September 2014 will retire December 31, 2026.