



*Welcome to your first meeting
of the Presbytery of Los Ranchos.*

The presbytery understands itself to be a learning community. We hope this first-timer booklet will help you learn more about the presbytery's mission, its committees, and what to expect at this and future presbytery gatherings.

Inside you will find:

- Dates and locations of upcoming presbytery meetings
- Responsibilities and privileges of presbytery commissioners
- Privileges of visitors to a presbytery gathering
- The Presbytery of Los Ranchos Mission statement
- Presbytery of Los Ranchos Committee and Team Descriptions
- Presbytery of Los Ranchos Moderators
- A list of presbytery and PC(USA) acronyms

The Presbytery Gathering Team (PGT) plans each presbytery gathering. Its goals are to:

- Gather God's people for worship
- Accomplish the presbytery's business
- Provide opportunities for learning
- Sit at table and break bread with one another
- Become a community of trust
- Inspire and equip commissioners and congregations to work towards the kin-dom* of God here and now

Each gathering of the presbytery will be unique. The theme, time, location, schedule, and speakers will vary. However, every gathering will include the following components:

- Worship
- Learning – speakers, workshops or some combination thereof
- Meal
- Business Meeting

The Presbytery of Los Ranchos is a community of people, congregations, and partnerships. We are God's gathered and disbursed people. We are a community that seeks to support, care for, and love one another. We are here to answer your questions, help you understand what is happening during the meeting and between meetings, and introduce you to your colleagues in ministry.

You are welcome here!

*<https://www.pcusa.org/news/2018/2/12/bible-study-ga223-will-explore-kin-dom-versus-king/>

2024 Meetings of the Presbytery of Los Ranchos

Thursday, February 22, 2024
Thursday, May 16, 2024
Saturday, September 21, 2024
Thursday, November 21, 2024

First Presbyterian Church, Fullerton
St. Mark Presbyterian Church
Grace Frist, Long Beach
Morningside Presbyterian Church

- Additional called meetings may be scheduled as needed

Commissioners to Presbytery with Voice and Vote

- All Ministers of Word and Sacrament (Teaching Elders) of the Los Ranchos Presbytery
- All Commissioned Pastors (Commissioned Ruling Elders) of the Presbytery of Los Ranchos
- Ruling Elders elected or assigned by their Session for the current year according to the Equalization Report approved at the February Presbytery Gathering
- Ruling Elders on Council; and
- Ruling Elders on Trustees
- Certified Educators, if Ruling Elders, otherwise voice only, and only during their term of service in an educational ministry under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery.
- For 2024 Presbytery Gatherings, Pioneer Leaders of New Worshipping Communities have been given voice without vote

All others must sign in as “Visitors,” “Guests,” or “Corresponding Members.” Visitors are always welcome at presbytery gatherings. Anyone who is not an enrolled Commissioner, Commissioned Ruling Elder or a Teaching Elder/Minister of Word and Sacrament member of the Presbytery of Los Ranchos is considered a visitor and is welcome as an observer.

If you are not sure of your status, please check with your Pastor or Clerk of Session. If you have questions, please call Carol Bridgeman at 714-956-3691, ext. 125.

Guidelines for Participating in Presbytery Meetings:

- When speaking, please address the Moderator and not the body
- Introduce yourself by stating your name and your church
- Only enrolled commissioners are authorized to vote on issues
- Enrolled commissioners include:
 - Ruling Elder commissioners chosen by their church as voting representative for Presbytery
 - All Ministers of Word and Sacrament (Teaching Elders) who are members of Presbytery of Los Ranchos.
 - All Commissioned Pastors (Commissioned Ruling Elders) of the Presbytery of Los Ranchos.
- Corresponding members are entitled to address the Presbytery (Corresponding members are clergy who are members of the PCUSA but not our Presbytery)
- For 2024 Presbytery Gatherings, Pioneer Leaders of New Worshipping Communities have been given voice.

All Commissioners, guests and visitors should register for the presbytery gathering online at:

<https://losranchos.org/gatherings/>

Online registration includes the ability to let us know your needs for translation, childcare, participation in learning conversations and the meal.

On the day of the gathering, please check-in at the lobby tables before entering the meeting room. You are asked to register your attendance as a voting member or visitor and receive a name badge.

Presbytery Of Los Ranchos Mission Statement

At our September 2019 Gathering, the Presbytery adopted a new mission statement. Prior to this meeting, representatives of the Generative Catalyst Team engaged in conversations with various groups throughout the presbytery asking for input. They found these gatherings fruitful and clarifying. This final revision of the mission statement was endorsed by the Council and adopted on September 28, 2019.

“God calls the Presbytery of Los Ranchos to cultivate vital congregations and partnerships that embody the love and justice of Jesus Christ.”

Commentary on the Mission Statement

“God calls ...”

We began with God’s initiative, partly because our tradition has always insisted that the work of creation and redemption begin with God’s sovereign initiative.

“Presbytery of Los Ranchos”

We explored many nouns to use as our subject, such as “God calls us to be a community, a body, a family, a council, network, union, companions, friends, collective, etc.” In the end, we felt that the word “presbytery” names the kind of body that can have the fellowship that is important to us and point to the specific work we have of holding one another accountable.

“cultivate vital”

Using an “optometrist approach” we narrowed a large field of potential verbs to one that captures the kind of sowing, weeding, watering, and harvesting work that the presbytery can exercise in our work. The idea is that our presbytery intentionally cultivates vitality in congregations and partnerships, not that PLR’s mission is exclusively for those congregations and partnerships that would already identify as “vital.”

“congregations and partnerships”

Without repeating the term “flourishing congregations” which is found in our vision statement, and with sensitivity to the presbyters who practice ministry in contexts outside of traditional congregations, we opted to add the word “partnerships.”

“embody”

We were looking for a term that would name our faithfulness in being as well as in doing. What we do springs forth from our identity, values and calling as Reformed disciples of Jesus Christ.

“love and justice of Christ.”

We were looking for a way of naming the reign of God in plain and distinctive terms. The fact that the Mission Statement begins with God and ends with Christ was particularly meaningful for us. It was also important that the statement name the transforming work that the Church is called to initiate and do. The terms “love” and “justice” are found throughout scripture and are descriptive of the work we seek to embody as a presbytery.

The Presbytery of Los Ranchos Committee and Team Descriptions

Presbytery Council

Committee Membership:

Committee moderators of Generative Catalyst Team (GCT), Strategic Coordinating Team (SCT), Staff Relations Committee (SRC), Committee on Ministry (COM), and Trustees or their representative, Council Moderator, Presbytery Moderator, Vice-Moderator, plus nine members at large, equally divided into three classes, nominated by Nominating Committee and elected by presbytery, divided as equally as possible between Ministers of Word and Sacrament and ruling elders.

Committee Function:

Council functions as a coordinating cabinet for the presbytery, to be responsible for increasing efficiency and in general, oversee the work of the presbytery. Acts on behalf of the presbytery between its meetings, when necessary. Develops General Mission Budget annually.

Committee on Ministry (COM)

Committee Membership:

Twenty-four members nominated by Nominating Committee and elected by presbytery, divided as equally as possible between Ministers of Word and Sacrament and ruling elders.

Committee Function:

Responsible for promotion of spiritual and temporal welfare of ministers and churches; supervise churches with vacant pulpit; counsel with all pastor nominating committees; process all pastoral calls; provide a pastoral presence and cultivate an attitude of caring and learning; respond to potential disorder within congregations; oversee validation of ministries not directly connected to a congregation.

Members shall be available as needed as a liaison to a pastor nominating committee (usually more than one PNC at a time). Every person on COM is assigned to a sub-committee by the COM moderator. This may mean one more meeting per month (average) as needed and may be daytime or nighttime depending on the type of meeting.

Sub-committees are: Validation Task Force, Interim Evaluation Task Force, Minimum Salary Task Force, Pastor's Retreat Task Force, Clergy Personnel Policy Review, and Response Coordinating Team (RCT).

Nominating Committee

Committee Membership:

Nine members nominated by Presbytery Council and elected by presbytery. Nominations annual report has the people "appointed by Council."

Committee Function:

Responsible to seek, discover, and develop the most effective personnel possible for presbytery committees and teams; to present to presbytery nominations for:

- Presbytery Moderator and Presbytery Vice-Moderator
- Council, COM, PJC, CPM, SMRT, SCT, Trustees members
- Synod Commissioners
- Presbytery "representatives" or special requests for General Assembly Committees.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)

Committee Membership:

Twelve members nominated by Nominating Committee and elected by presbytery, divided as equally as possible between Ministers of Word and Sacrament and ruling elders.

Committee Function:

Enlistment, oversight, care, and nurture of persons interested in service as Ministers of Word and Sacrament and the sessions of such persons:

- interviews applicants coming "under care"
- consults annually with each inquirer or candidate
- examines and presents inquirers to presbytery with recommendations for action on them becoming candidates.
- oversight of academic progress and Standard Ordination Exams
- examines and presents to presbytery for examination for ordination, those candidates who have received a call (or are ready to receive a call).

In addition to monthly meetings, each member serves as an advisor for three to four inquirers/candidates.

Staff Relations Committee (SRC)

Committee Membership:

Nine members nominated by Presbytery Council and elected by presbytery, divided as equally as possible between teaching elders and ruling elders.

Committee Function:

The committee supports, guides, counsels, and evaluates all presbytery staff; implements the personnel policy of the presbytery; reviews, evaluates, and recommends appropriate changes to the policy; studies the staff configuration and recommends appropriate changes; reviews compensation for all staff members and prepares budget recommendations for the appropriate budget committees; presents nominations to Council for administrative and program staff with the exception of the Leader for Vision and Mission and the Leader for Polity and Administration/Stated Clerk.

Trustees

Committee Membership:

Twelve members nominated by Nominating Committee and elected by presbytery, divided as equally as possible between Ministers of Word and Sacrament and ruling elders.

Committee Function:

Fiduciary responsibilities for finances and property. Responsible for budget preparation and management; investment strategy and oversight; management and sale of property; endowment funds; insurance; audits; accounting and accounting software; loans from the sale of property funds; reports to presbytery; interest income. Assure that presbytery meets all secular and ecclesiastical requirements for proper management of all assets.

Committee members serve on one of four sub-committees: Budget & Finance; Investments; Property and Facilities; Accounting and Audit.

Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC)

Committee Membership:

Nine members nominated by Nominating Committee and elected by presbytery, divided as equally as possible between teaching elders and ruling elders. The regular term is 6 years - a class elected every other year.

Committee Function:

Hear cases involving judicial matters and render its decision on behalf of the presbytery.

Generative Catalyst Team (GCT)

Committee Membership:

Nine members who are futurists, entrepreneurs, strategist and creative. There are three classes of three-year terms. Each class consists of a member appointed by the Presbytery Moderator, one nominated by Council and elected by presbytery; and one appointed by Presbytery Co-Executive for Vision and Mission.

Committee Function:

- Cultivating & stimulating generative and adaptive thinking
- Provide theological reflection and guidance to presbytery
- Evaluating presbytery's mission
- Reviewing the budget to ensure that resources go to missional priorities
- Bring regular Odyssey Reports to presbytery gatherings
- Raise challenges and opportunities for presbytery's consideration.

Sexual Misconduct Response Team (SMRT)

Committee Membership:

Nine members nominated by Nominating Committee and elected by presbytery, divided as equally as possible between Ministers of Word and Sacrament and ruling elders.

SMRT is a group of people elected by the presbytery to aid it and the Committee on Ministry to respond quickly, pastorally, and objectively to reports of sexual misconduct and to assist the presbytery and its member churches in activities aimed at the prevention of sexual misconduct. It is not intended to replace, and should not be understood as replacing, the work of an Investigating Committee as provided for in the "Church Discipline."

Strategic Coordinating Team (SCT)

Committee Membership:

Eighteen members nominated by Nominating Committee and elected by presbytery, divided as equally as possible between Ministers of Word and Sacrament and ruling elders, who work with leaders of congregations to connect with the resources of the presbytery; are willing to challenge the status quo; are able to design experiments and measure results against desired outcomes; are able to think developmentally, in stages and phases.

Committee Function:

Doing work that is critical to leadership for our presbytery's mission; help create, maintain, support partnerships of congregations; facilitating and supporting affinity and professional networks; provide resources to maintain and encourage ethnic ministries and New Worshiping Communities.

Members serve on one of four sub-committees: Christian Formation and Discipleship; Healthy

Congregations; New Worshipping Communities; Worldwide Mission and Community Engagement.

Presbytery Gathering Team (PGT)

Committee Membership:

Moderator and Vice-Moderator of the presbytery, representatives from the Presbytery Council, the Generative Catalyst and Strategic Coordinating Teams, and three members-at-large equally divided into three classes. At-Large members are nominated by Council and elected by the presbytery.

Committee Function:

The Presbytery Gathering Team builds enthusiasm and energy for Presbytery Gatherings by coordinating activities that flow together in a natural rhythm in an effort to support the presbytery's vision and enhance its missional effectiveness.

Presbytery Staff

Executive Presbyter:	Tom Cramer, tcramer@losranchos.org
Stated Clerk:	Sandra Sonhyang Kim, Statedclerk@losranchos.org
Exec Assistant for Administration & Operations	Carol Bridgeman, cbridgeman@losranchos.org
Executive Assistant for Presbytery Gatherings & Ministry Support:	Debbie Haley, dhaley@losranchos.org
Director of Operations	Gary Pago, gpado@losranchos.org

Specialists

Specialist for Church Revitalization & New Worshipping Communities:	Alfredo Delgado, adelgado@losranchos.org
Specialist for Spiritual Formation & Communication:	Susan Young-Thornton, sthornton@losranchos.org

Moderators/Co-Moderators of Presbytery Committees and Teams – 2024

Presbytery Moderator:	TE David Beary – david.beary@fpcdowney.com
Presbytery Moderator Elect:	RE Lori Ruff-Schmalenberger lr.schmal@verizon.net
Committee on Ministry:	TE Jeff Bridgeman – jbridgeman@fpcfullerton.org
Committee on Preparation for Ministry:	RE Betty Christiansen – bettychristiansen@yahoo.com
Nominations Committee:	TE Steve Wirth – sewirth2011@gmail.com
Presbytery Council:	TE Gail Sterns – gailstearns8@gmail.com
Presbytery Gathering Team:	TE David Beary – david.beary@fpcdowney.com
Sexual Misconduct Response Team	TE Jason Griffice – jgriffice@gmail.com
Strategic Coordinating Team:	RE Nathan Flores – flores.nathan13@gmail.com
Staff Relations Committee:	TE Leanne Strommen – lstrommen@sjcpres.org
Trustees:	TE Mike Regele – mregele@cox.net

Common Presbytery Acronyms

COM:	Committee on Ministry
CP:	Commissioned Pastor (Commissioned Ruling Elder)
CPM:	Committee on Preparation for Ministry
GCT:	Generative Catalyst Team
LRP:	Los Ranchos Presbytery
NWC:	New Worshipping Community
NOM:	Nominations Committee
PGT:	Presbytery Gathering Team
PJC:	Permanent Judicial Commission
PLR:	Presbytery of Los Ranchos
RE:	Ruling Elder
SC:	Stated Clerk
SCT:	Strategic Coordinating Team
SMRT:	Sexual Misconduct Response Team
SRC:	Staff Relations Committee
STG:	Strategic Task Group
TE:	Teaching Elder (Minister of Word and Sacrament)

Want to know more? Visit our website - <https://losranchos.org> - for more in-depth information.