



PRESBYTERY OF SAN DIEGO

SPIRITUAL. MISSIONAL. RELATIONAL.

For the last year my twenty-something daughter and her friends have been anticipating a night at Sofi Stadium a couple of weeks ago. That night was the Taylor Swift concert. They spent time figuring out what they were going to wear, makeup to put on, and even made friendship bracelets to trade with other concert goers. Can you imagine a person that can sell out a 70,000 seat stadium six times, and have thousands of fans wanting to be so close even when they did not have tickets sit outside? This is not even getting into the atmosphere and community that was inside. All to be a part of a musical performance? I am sure that each of us has their own band, musical, performance, sporting event, etc. that we would want to participate in and give such devotion to.

What makes wanting to be a part of a concert so special and memorable? Each person regardless of wealth, socioeconomics, race, political affiliation, and other core beliefs blended into this mass of concertgoers. For those moments together it did not matter. Each longed to be a participant in this experience and when they left.... they still shared that common experience. In many ways, I long and pray that the church can emulate what happened that night. That the pull and desire to uplift God can help us transcend all barriers and changes us. The problem we have is that we must be willing to let the experience transform who we are. Our own ambitions and thoughts need to be left behind to pursue something larger than ourselves.

Over the next couple of months a number of changes will be presented to Executive Council and the Presbytery. These changes are structural but also will help focus us on who God calls us to be. Our core values of relational, spiritual, and missional are lived out in church planting, vitalizing our

congregations, and having a missional focus. For us to move ahead as a Presbytery we need to have a vision of who and what God calls us to be. At times there will be moments in which we take a leap of faith and others courage to do what has not been done before.

At the very center of what we do is our own corporate and personal relationship with God. We run in a fast paced life where we often do not have the opportunity to sit and reflect on what is happening in our life. I invite you to join us in a time of Sabbath and reflection. Rev. Jeff Eddings from 1001 New Worshiping Communities created a retreat guide that we will be using. You can find it on our website. Please take some time to slow down and reflect. Your relationship with God is important to your creator and us.

Blessings

Rev. Dr. Sean M. Chow

[Get the retreat guide here.](#)

Church Financial Leadership Grants Available

If you are a pastor, commissioned ruling elder (CRE), a leader of a 1001 New Worshiping Community or a member of a stewardship team attending with a pastor, The Presbyterian Foundation has Church Financial Leadership Grants available. The grants will enable churches to institute best practices for church financial leadership, introduce you to new models of giving and stewardship, and offer leaders new ways to talk about money and form generous disciples within their church.

You can learn more by visiting [this website](#).

Young Adult Advisory Delegates (YAADs)

Are you interested in becoming a YAAD for the San Diego Presbytery? If you are please reach out to Sean Chow or Jaime Nelson.

Each presbytery may elect to be a Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the 226th General Assembly a young adult who will be between the ages of 18 and 23 years old on June 25, 2024 **and** who is

- an active member of one of its congregations, **or**
- a participant in a New Worshipping Community or an immigrant fellowship that has a relationship with the presbytery. [**Please note** that this is recent change in the Standing Rules to enable more opportunities for those ages 18-23 to respond to the call to serve as YAAD.]

Upcoming Events and More— A message from the Office of Christian Formation

College and Young Adult Sunday Worship Resources: [Here](#) are liturgy and worship resources as well as suggestions on how to lift up and support college students and young adults in your communities. Also look soon for a new 4-session small group study about the issues young adults are facing and how to connect with and learn from them, created in partnership with [UKirk Collegiate Ministries](#).

POAMN Fall Conference **September 14–15:** Join the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network in Grosse Ile, Michigan around the theme of “Walking in New Shoes.” [See details and register.](#)

PCCCA Annual Conference **November 13–17:** Outdoor Ministry leaders will be gathering around the theme of “Building Bridges—Connecting Communities” at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center in Little Rock, Arkansas. [See details and register.](#)

Fernclipse: Solar Eclipse Intergenerational Event **April 6–9:** Join the Office of

Christian Formation and Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center in Little Rock, Arkansas, for this special intergenerational event. [Learn more.](#)

New [Quicksheets and Resources](#):

- [Educational Technology Tools for Expansive Ministry](#)
- [Technology and Teaching](#)
- [Engaging Matthew 25 in Children](#)
- [Matthew 25, Children and Stewardship](#)
- [Pastoral Care with Children: Six Essential Ingredients](#)
- [Pastoral Care with Children: Tips and Tools](#)

Faith Formation Leader Connection Monthly Zooms:

- Looking for Youth Resources? Join on **August 22, 8 pm Eastern.**
 - Thinking about Advent? Join on **September 14, 1 pm** or **September 26, 8 pm Eastern.**
 - [Find registration information, resource lists and recordings of past topics.](#)
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