

Santa Clarita United Reformed Church Update



The Santa Clarita church plant continues to be blessed with great progress in several ways

Rev. Nymeyer over Zoom and are expected to be received into membership by profession, transfer, and baptism. The women’s bible study is tackling the subject of Covenant Theology and reading Sacred Bond, as some in our group wrestle with understanding Reformed distinctives.

Growing pains come in a variety of shapes and sizes

Over the past six months, the greatest challenge and obstacle for growth and progress at the Santa Clarita United Reformed Church plant has been the absence of a suitable, public, and stable location. Our worship services have moved five times in the past six months. It has demonstrated that our core group is resilient, mobile, flexible, and committed. Yet, the lack of a suitable, public, and stable location has inhibited us from being able to promote and advertise ourselves to the public in a manner to get the word out in the community.

Finding a public and stable location has proven to be a difficult challenge due to several factors beyond our control. Two recent pursuits have ended in fruitless disappointment. Never-the-less we continue to pursue all available opportunities as we search and discover them.

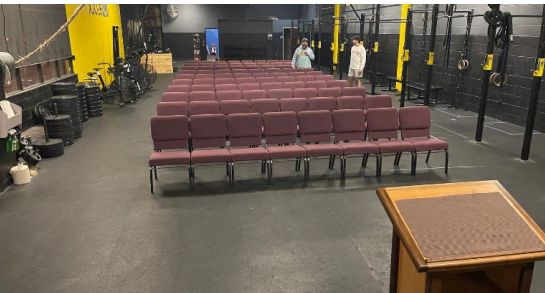
Other items of interest. We recently added a Youtube channel where weekly sermons are posted, as well as Instagram account where church activities are often shared. Santa Clarita URC also shares updates on Facebook and Twitter. Followers and subscribers on social media are encouraged and welcome. The website received a major overhaul, and we hope to make continuing improvements in content to better represent the face of our growing church plant. Please do share and subscribe.

Prayer Requests:

- 1. A suitable, public stable location for morning and evening worship that will allow us to grow beyond our current numbers and allow us to promote the church plant in the community.
- 2. Clarity in faith and doctrine, as some of our core and regularly attending families wrestle with and embrace covenant theology and endure external discouragement.
- 3. Financial support for our plant may expand as we seek to grow and establish a Reformed gospel witness in Santa Clarita, CA.

Sincerely in Christ,

Michael Kiledjian
Church Planter for Santa Clarita United Reformed Church
Assigned Elder from First Chino United Reformed Church (Overseeing Church)



Over the holiday season we were able to temporarily rent a closing cross-fit gym from No-Dec 2021. It was cold!!! 45 degrees, but we braved the weather for worship.



Worship - packed out at the Secor’s Home - Jan 2022 & Sept 2021

Help Our Classical Church Planting Fund

Dear Christians,

On behalf of the Church Planting Advisory Committee (CPAC) of Classis Southwest US, I am excited to present to you this third edition of our Church Planting Newsletter. Please read it and pray to the Lord for the church plants of the URCNA within our Classis. Pray that God would provide for all of their spiritual and material needs. Also, please pray that these churches would faithfully proclaim the Law and the Gospel to the sheep entrusted to them and that they would zealously evangelize their various communities as well. May we pray as the Holy Spirit exhorts us to do so through the Apostle Paul in Colossians 4:2-6, “Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.”

We also ask that you, as churches and individual Christians, financially support the church plants featured in this newsletter. An effective way to do this is by sending contributions directly to our classical Church Planting Fund. You may mail checks to the Classis Treasurer, Steven Ornee: 745 Lamat Road, La Habra Heights, CA 90631. Please write, “Church Plant Fund” on the memo line. The funds raised will be disbursed, under the supervision of Classis, when church plants request financial assistance. This is an excellent and tangible way to promote the spread of the Gospel in our region of the world!

If you have any questions about CPAC or the church plants within our Classis, feel free to reach out to me at: bradlenzner@christreformed.org.

On behalf of CPAC,

Rev. Brad Lenzner, Chairman

United Reformed Church Plant Fund

All check donations should be payable to Classis Southwest
Indicate Church Plant Fund on memo line
Mail checks to the Classis Treasurer at

Steven Ornee, Treasurer
745 Lamat Road, La Habra Heights, CA 90631
(714) 592-0000
swutreasurer@gmail.com

Every donation will be acknowledged with a thank-you letter / receipt
If a church offering is designated for the fund, the church should deposit the donations locally then issue and mail a single check to the Classis Treasurer.
Classis is not able to accept donations in cash, over the internet, or from debit/credit cards at this time.

Your CPAC Committee:

- Mr. Bernie Gabrielse, 1st Chino URC - bcgabes@aol.com
- Rev. Brad Lenzner, Anaheim, Chairman - bradlenzner@christreformed.org
- Elder Marty Martinez, High Desert - rhmartinez@live.com
- Rev. Tom Morrison, High Desert, Vice Chairman - tomm75@earthlink.net
- Mr. Ed Silva, Anaheim - Ed.Silva909@gmail.com
- Rev. Derrick Vander Meulen, Littleton, CO - Derrickvandermeulen@gmail.com



URC Classis Southwest Church Planting
NEWSLETTER
Volume 3 Spring 2022



Ventura Reformed Update
by Rev. Adam Kaloostian

What is a ‘good day’ at Ventura Reformed? A good day is when we pray and plow with discipline, and trust the Lord. A good day is when we kill off self-ambition and project entitlement, content to serve each other and the local people God is putting in our lives.

Our most important update is that the Pasadena elders have cleared us to begin worship services on Sunday, March 6th. Our new time is noon. As I sit here writing the Monday before that first worship service, mostly, of course, we are excited. Our group is so happy to get back to the rhythms of the worship services. So we begin this new season with 21 committed souls, plus our two accompanist girls, plus the weekly visiting elder household. Others in the mix range from those who swear they will be

with us but will likely never attend, to the people whom, if I am reading them correctly, we will see about once a month. My concerns today are more practical. I wonder about how, in conjunction with our landlords, we are going to contain the gopher problem that has emerged the past couple weeks at the church property. I saw a hole Sunday that I am convinced goes all the way through to China!

One of the new core households with us is a young couple in their late twenties with two little girls. It is adorable how the oldest girl, three years-old, calls the three boys in the church (ages eight, eleven and eleven) “my boys”. She demands the boys include her in everything, violent football games on the church front lawn not excepted. Now that I think about it, it seems we are all “hers”. We don’t mass-mail pandering glossy invites to a Disneyland children’s ministry, but as we befriend people, we ask the Lord if he may ingraft them into a close, covenant community of life and worship. As one of the other brothers here always says, “yeah- where the pastor knows your name”.

A few weeks ago I was asked to preach at a funeral where many of those attending were outright post-Christian, wealthy Gen-X professionals.

We meditated on Psalm 90 for the service- “teach us to measure our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”

I was compelled to preach the simple gospel of forgiveness of sins and resurrection in Jesus with a seat-shifting apologetic. We hope the handful of guys there (some we know personally), having afterward expressed a willingness to meet in a reading group, will commit to that. One of them offered his backyard, we are just waiting on the first group text from the organizer.

Thank you for your prayers, loved ones in our classis churches. How we know that so many of you are praying is that the Lord does give us good days. Above all else, please continue to pray. Today, when you read this, I ask you to pray specifically for those who have not yet attended any church thing here, but with whom we are having ongoing and advancing spiritual conversation.

If you have occasion to drop us a line, please let us know how we can pray for you.

May Christ be praised!

This Newsletter is produced by: URC Classis Southwest Church planting Advisory Committee

Ontario Spanish Language Ministry Update

MINISTERIAL PLAN, 2022
ONTARIO UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
Spanish Language Ministry, *El Mesías*



Strategy:

We are currently looking to call a second laborer to serve alongside me as co-pastor of Ontario URC and our integrated church model for the Spanish Language ministry, since the outreach and ministry opportunities set before us in the city of Ontario are far beyond the ability of one minister. We hope to soon find a man well-suited to this position and willing to join us in this multicultural endeavor. We will reconfigure the respective duties of our two ministers in order to serve our current membership and to reach our neighbors for Christ in both English and Spanish. We have already begun the search and we are closing in on one candidate in particular. In order to call another minister to serve alongside me on this mission field here in Southern California, however, we will look to the generous partnership of our sister churches and individual partners within the federation. Our prayerful hope is that the Lord will bless us with enough growth to thereby independently sustain the fullness of our integrated ministry model.

Activities:

Pray for the Lord’s blessing upon our Sunday gatherings in Spanish and upon our weekly Bible study. Over the past month we have some renewed interest, some visitors, and one new regular attendee to our Spanish language fellowship gathering on Sunday mornings. We recently finished our study of the book of Revelation and we are currently studying “The Doctrine of God” in Spanish over zoom. Lord willing members are interested in starting an in-person bible study soon.

Additionally, if the Lord provides us with a co-pastor of this work in the near future, these are some of the kind of activities that we would implement:

- Saturday Evening Evangelistic service all in Spanish
- Setting up ministry booths with Reformed literature in Spanish at local city events and the local swap meet.
- Participate actively in the local community garden called *La Huerta*, for which Ontario URC is already renting out office space free of charge.
- Scheduled walks through local parks to witness as a church.
- Host a summer soccer clinic in the local park

Please pray with us that the LORD might provide for this ministry the right co-pastor and sufficient funds to honorably support the costs of our Spanish Language Ministry here in Ontario, CA.

Gratefully in Christ,

Rev. Taylor Kern

Building Christian Community In Colorado Springs

Worshippers at Covenant URC enjoy fellowship between our two services on a sunny Sunday in January 2022! The changing of the seasons is stunning here at the base of Pike’s Peak. This causes us to reflect on the unchanging nature of God in the midst of an ever-changing world and celebrate positive developments in our church plant.

1. Christian Community is being built through Men’s and Women’s Bible Study groups now meeting in person. The men meet bi-weekly at New Geneva Theological Seminary and are studying the book of Acts. The women are studying Ephesians, while meeting in homes to encourage visitors and friends to join. These times have been well-attended, rich with prayer and discussion, and a means of growing in unity and outreach.

2. Christian Community is being built through outreach to our City. One of our members is teaching a weekly Bible Study on the Gospel of Mark at Springs Rescue Mission and is actively inviting residents for Sunday worship at Covenant. We also have joined with a ministry at a local home for the elderly, providing Sunday services now and then. In addition, I have started a Pastor’s Fellowship Group that meets monthly. All these outreaches are intended to bring glory to God and grow His kingdom.

3. Christian Community is also being built through the weekly preaching and teaching ministry as well as monthly celebrations of the Lord’s Supper. We regularly welcome visitors to our services, and I currently have the privilege of preparing several of these for membership at Covenant. Praise God for His faithfulness!

Thank you to the churches and individuals in our federation for your support of Covenant URC. We exist to glorify God and make His name known in obedience to the Great Commission. Please pray for our continued needs for leadership, growth, and outreach.

Until He Comes,
Pastor Fritz Harms
harms.fritz.60@gmail.com
209-481-9941



Annual Chinese Church Plant Report

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I would like to give you a brief report of the Chinese church plant in year 2021. In the past year, the number of the church members has reached a 75% growth, with now 52 souls in total, among whom are 37 adults and 15 covenant children. There were 2 adult converts and 6 covenant children baptized last year.

Beyond the growth within the confines of local church, we have reached out also to many audience throughout the world, from other states of the US, Canada, Europe, Australia, Japan, Southeast Asia, especially Mainland China. Here are some encouraging words from them:

“God guided me to hear your sermons and led me to this church to worship, just when I was in a great trial, God knew I was weak, so He put me here and used His words to strengthen me. When I heard your preaching, I felt a great comfort. I prayed that God would build me up with His words.” – from a new member

“There is no Reformed church here in Athens, I listened to your sermons for about two years, and every time I am built up in faith.” – from a believer from Greece

“The biggest blessing I received from this church is that I finally understand the Gospel.” – a member

Looking to the new year 2022, CCRC is moving toward its milestones, we are about to elect elder and deacons to serve God’s people. Moving forward from the shadow of the pandemic, we seek to create more opportunities to bring people together physically and socially.

We are confident that the Lord will continue to work and through us, to fulfill His most wise and wonderful plan of salvation. Please continue to pray for us:

- Pray for the insight into what needs to grow, develop and mature in the church plant before becoming an organized, established church.
- Pray for the development of leadership qualities, for a strong desire to serve God and His people in future office bearers.
- Pray for the growth in number, in commitment, and in mutual love of the church members.
- Pray for effective shepherding to those who are suffering, having burdens, struggles, and weaknesses.

May the Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Father be with you all!

Blessings,

Pastor Yi Wang