



VENTURE
CHURCH NETWORK

N. California & Nevada

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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Thank You



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Almost 20 years ago, I accepted the call to be the Lead Pastor at Northside Church in Sacramento, California. Reflecting on the valued years of connections, encouragement, and guidance from colleagues and friends through Venture Church Network of Northern California and Nevada (VCN NCal/NV), I realize how it has shaped me into the pastor I am today. After completing my first full year as the Regional Executive Director, I find myself passionately dedicated to helping others get the same kind of support I did all those years ago.

My goal is for VCN NCal/NV to be a network of churches that serve one another and build up our community in fellowship and shared values. In this ever-changing world, there is a real danger that autonomy has led to anonymity, and I do not want you to be anonymous. Now more than ever, pastors matter. The local church matters. You matter. We feel that what we are doing to serve the church really matters. We would love for you to join us in taking **BOLD** next steps to be committed to our association values of being:

GOSPEL-driven
BIBLICALLY-committed
DISCIPLE-making
RELATIONALLY-committed

Throughout the year, I have had the great fortune to intentionally connect with pastors, church planters, elder boards, board members, staff members, regional directors, camp directors, national partners, and countless others who have genuinely worked to advance the Kingdom. Thank you for answering the call and making a difference!

Over the past year, you have helped transform people's lives in our association of Northern California, Nevada, and beyond. Because of your prayers and generosity, I am so humbled and grateful to be partnering to continue to build his undefeatable church (Matthew 16:18).

Dr. Joshua Lane
Regional Executive Director
Venture Church Network N. California/Nevada

2 DIRECTOR'S UPDATES

Silver Spur Christian Camp

In August, we sold Silver Spur Christian Camp and Retreat Center located in Tuolumne, CA. In 1965, our church association purchased this property to provide a year-round camp for churches, schools, and other non-profit organizations. For 58 years, it operated with the mission to create an engaging environment where people learned and experienced the grace and truth of Jesus Christ. At the time of its sale, Silver Spur spanned 135 acres and could accommodate groups of 20-320 people. We are grateful for the opportunities the camp provided us to impact churches, ministries, and people in advancing the Kingdom of God. I desire that we become known as the most generous church organization in our region with our time, energy, experience, and resources. The sale of Silver Spur will enable us to continue our mission to honor God and serve our region.

venturechurches-ncnv.com/silver-spur-update/ ➔

Preaching Cohorts

This spring, we had six churches preach through the seven churches of Revelation for eight weeks. The goal of the preaching cohort is to build community, sharpen each other, and enrich our sermons. The cohort met weekly to discuss passages because we believe that sermons are stronger when cultivated in part with the community and not in isolation. It was time spent borrowing and learning from each other while discussing the passage, structure, and application. The next cohort will start in the spring of 2024.

venturechurches-ncnv.com/preaching/ ➔

Church Visits

Throughout 2023, I traveled to connect with pastors and churches in our network to see how our association could support and encourage them. I also took time to visit churches that were interested in getting more information about VCN NCal/NV. Some of the locations visited were San Jose, Morgan Hill, Fremont, Carmel, Fresno, Lemoore, Los Osos, Grizzly Flats, Shingle Springs, South Lake Tahoe, and the Reno, Nevada area. At VCN NCal/NV, we are relationally committed to supporting churches in becoming the transformative churches God has designed them to be, so if you would like a church visit, please email me at joshua@venturechurches-ncnv.com. I look forward to serving and connecting with you in the future.

2 DIRECTOR'S UPDATES

VCN National Association

As a Regional Executive Director, I am also part of a national team representing one of our eight regions. We meet monthly, but three times a year, we meet in person in one of our regions. In 2023, we met in Oceanside, California; Denver, Colorado; and Auburn, Massachusetts. During this time, we were able to build camaraderie, unify our mission, and share a vision to ensure that all regions are moving together in the same direction. It is just as important to invest in our national identity as it is to invest in our regional identity. We are fortunate to be under the leadership of Dr. David Whitaker, who has committed his life to the mission of the church. His years of dedication to our association gives me confidence that God is clearly working around the nation. I look forward to hosting our national team this February in our region in Monterey, California. Please pray as we partner together to transform lives with the gospel.

venturechurches.org/ ➔

Church Planting

We have seven church plants throughout the region. I meet with them regularly to encourage them, build them up, and provide vital resources. Church planting is part of the DNA of our association, and we continue to see the Lord work in building up his church.

venturechurches-ncnv.com/church-planting/ ➔

Lead Pastors Retreat

We hosted our 4th Annual Lead Pastors' Retreat in beautiful Aptos, California, in October. Over 70 lead pastors, wives, staff members, and national partners gathered to rest and connect with God and each other on the California coast. This was our largest gathering to date. We were inspired and encouraged by messages about how God is working in our lives and our churches, and we gained honest insights from incredible speakers. The retreat theme of "Adequately Insufficient" served as a reminder that pastors are both enough and not enough for the ministries they are called to lead. You can view pictures, watch testimonies, and be encouraged by our sessions together.

venturechurches-ncnv.com/lpr-2023-recap/ ➔



Josh Lane | Executive Director

In 2005, he became the lead pastor at Northside Church, a church plant from Arcade Church, in Sacramento, CA. There, he found a particular passion for discipleship, biblical truth, and connecting people to God and each other. In 2022, he became Regional Executive Director for the VCNNcal/NV. He holds a BA in Communications from California State University, Sacramento, and an MDiv and DMin from Western Seminary. In November, he married Jenny Parrish and is excited for their new life together. joshua@venturechurches-ncnv.com

Ministry Leadership Certificate (MLC)

I took over this role from Josh Lane a little over a year ago. My primary responsibility is directing the Ministry Leadership Certificate (MLC) program.

The MLC program was designed to be a tool for churches to help equip their saints for the work of ministry. I have sent people from my church through the program every year since it started and have seen its benefits. I was excited to take over the direction of the program!

I spent last spring working to refresh the program. I rewrote the syllabus, changed the required reading lists, and updated the assignments. All of the video content for this program is provided to us by Western Seminary. I worked with the distance learning director at Western Seminary to adjust our courses to create a more integrated learning experience.

The MLC is divided into two cohorts: one that is based in N. California and one that meets at Campus Bible Church in Fresno, CA. This year, both cohorts locations have seen our largest attendance in years!

My goal for the future is to offer this program to a broader audience. At this point, it has mostly been provided to VCN churches. While the content is seminary-level, I believe that it could be accessible to high school or college students who are looking for a deeper understanding of God's word.

I would also like to see the cohort model that Campus Bible Church uses employed in other larger churches or regions. I enjoy the increased camaraderie and accountability when several students are all in the same location.

venturechurches-ncnv.com/mlc/ ➔



Beth Whitney
Director of Family Ministries
Arcade Church | Sacramento, CA

“I needed a trampoline to jump further into ministry, and the MLC was the trampoline I needed. It gave me the confidence to provide me with a firm biblically foundation, equip me to serve the church better, and it personally challenged me in a deeper walk with the Lord.”

Pastoral Transition Resources

Pastoral succession planning is the responsibility of every pastor, regardless of their age, intended tenure, or current ministry challenges or successes. Our team is ready to do all we can to encourage lead pastors to pray, plan, and prepare for their inevitable transition. We offer tools, counsel, and training to help you successfully navigate this critical ministry. We provide training and support for:

- Young pastors who are just starting out at a church.
- Middle-aged pastors who are in the prime of their ministry career.
- Older pastors who are nearing the end of their ministry as a lead pastor.
- Church boards and search teams who are looking for their next pastor.
- Churches of any size that need outside help to avoid an unhealthy immediate or future lead pastor transitions.

venturechurches-ncnv.com/pastoral-transitions/ →

Ordination

In the last couple of years, we ordained several leaders. This year, we had the opportunity to ordain Pastor Kenton Rahn. He will eventually be the new senior pastor at Campus Bible Church in Fresno, CA. This was one of the steps needed to confirm his call for his future pastoral ministry. The ordination process begins and ends with a leader called by God to the Gospel ministry. It also involves recognizing this call by the local church where the leader is serving. The Venture Church Network family of churches and church leaders are also involved in advising the church and serving on the ordination council.

venturechurches-ncnv.com/ordination/ →



Andy Flowers | Director of Leadership Education

He has served as the Senior Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Woodland, CA since 2007. Andy received his MDiv, ThM., and DMin from Western Seminary. Andy has been married to his wife Camille for 27 years, and they have three kids. He serves on the board for Seminario De Oeste, a ministry in Mexico that trains and equips pastors. He also serves as an adjunct professor at Western Seminary. Andy has been on the board for VCN several times and has been on staff with the association for one year. His responsibilities include the Ministry Leadership Certificate program ordinations and pastoral transitions. He loves teaching, preaching, and talking about ministry. andy@venturechurches-ncnv.com

4 CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS

Partnering With Churches

Thank God for 2023! Our VCN churches are taking new bold steps forward by faith, and God is doing new work in new ways. We are truly thankful and delighted to come alongside and support and encourage our 120+ churches in Northern California and Nevada and their pastors and leaders. Most of our time was spent on the phone or Zoom, or in restaurants and coffee shops, processing ministry matters that are uplifting or draining. Strategic planning, ministry assessments, pastor transitions and successions, pulpit fill, and much prayer are all a regular part of our get-togethers. All to the glory of God and the good of the godly servants that we have the joy of ministering with.

Let's all join together in prayer for our pastors and churches who need ongoing strength, hope, and wisdom. Pray that they will not grow weary in well-doing. That they will continue to be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, as they call to mind that their labors are not in vain in the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58).

venturechurches-ncnv.com/hca/ →

Interim Pulpit Supply

If you need an experienced pastor/teacher pulpit or a quality interim pastor, we can help you find the best fit for your church. We can help provide temporary pastors to strengthen your church during pastoral transition for greater effectiveness. We have resources through our staff and national partner, Interim Pastor Ministries, to help with your needs.

venturechurches-ncnv.com/resources/ →

Pastoral Searches

Our association is experienced in assisting with pastoral searches. In 2023, we partnered with a number of churches as they searched for a lead pastor, and provided pulpit supply during the transition. We have come alongside many churches working with elder boards and search committees to help find pastors for churches in our region.

venturechurches-ncnv.com/resources/ →



Dave Gudgel | Director of Church Health

He has served for forty years as a Lead Pastor – first in Southern California at Agoura Bible Fellowship, then in Phoenix, Arizona, at Bethany Bible Church, and then at Bridges Community Church in Los Altos, CA. Dave brings to his staff role-tested ministry experience and an enthusiastic passion for helping our pastors, leaders, and churches excel in their ministry callings. dave@venturechurches-ncnv.com



ASSOCIATION NEWS

Lead Pastor Updates

In the last few years, we saw some changes due to retirements and transitions. Our team has been working with most of these churches to partner with them and provide resources and pulpit fill. Please welcome them to our association.

- Baywood Park Community Church | Los Osos, CA - Matt Curtis
- Valley Bible Church | Merced, CA - James Ko
- Lakeside Church | Folsom, CA - Brian Becker
- Orchard Church | Chico, CA - Casey Moreno
- Mitchell Community Church | Turlock, CA - Rick Burnam
- Grace Baptist Church | Lemoore, CA - Frank Caudell
- Grace Bible Church of Cedar Ridge | Grass Valley, CA - Chris Bogstad

AB-506 Legislation

The new California legislation (AB506) requires employees, administrators, and volunteers of youth-serving organizations (including houses of worship, schools, daycares, and nonprofits) to complete training in child abuse and neglect reporting and undergo Live Scan background checks. Pastor Mike Klockenbrink, business administrator at Lakeside Church in Folsom, CA, held a seminar that has helped many churches find state compliance.

venturechurches-ncnv.com/ab506/ ➔

Employment Opportunities and Placement

Our association posts current openings for our churches and ministry partners and assists in pastoral placement.

venturechurches-ncnv.com/jobs/ ➔

Future Events

February 27, 2024 | Church and Politics Seminar

April 2024 | Preaching Cohort starts

June 7, 2024 | Last Day of MLC

June 17, 2024 | Registration opens for MLC

August 26, 2024 | MLC starts

October 14 - 16, 2024 | 5th Annual Lead Pastors' Retreat

5 ASSOCIATION NEWS

Church and Politics Seminar | February 27, 2024

Back in 2020, Venture Church Network invited Dr. Todd Miles to help us think through the relationship between the church and politics. The goal was to enable us to shepherd our people through a contentious election season. The upcoming election cycle promises to be just as divisive.

We have a unique opportunity to proclaim the Gospel and point people to Jesus in a way that builds unity. A biblical view of government, politics, and political leaders will help us know how to better shepherd people who might be struggling to make sense of things.

Dr. Todd Miles from Western Seminary will be speaking on how to navigate differing political views while finding unity in Christ. As the Professor of Theology at Western Seminary, it is Dr. Miles's desire to help equip local church leaders in ways that make way for our theology to bear weight on both the church and state.

- Tuesday, February 27, 2024
- Church on the Hill | 500 Sands Drive | San Jose, CA 95125
- 10AM – 3PM (Lunch will be provided)
- \$40
- Discount for Western Seminary students, alumni, and staff.
- Live Stream and video link option

venturechurches-ncnv.com/leadership-spring-2024/ →



Todd Miles has been a follower of Jesus from a young age. He is a Professor of Theology at Western Seminary, where he teaches Theology, Hermeneutics, Biblical Theology, Church History, and Apologetics. Todd is the Director of the Master of Theology program. He currently serves as an elder at Hinson Church.



Sally Hahn | Director of Connections

She was born and raised in Sacramento, California. Arcade Church was her home church, and served on staff there for 13 years. Sally graduated from the University of California, Davis, with a BA in Rhetoric Communications. She also attended Western Seminary for further ministry training. Her father was a church planter for the Korean church in the Sacramento area and Southern California, which gave her a heart for the church. Having served on the VCN Leadership team years ago, appointed and served with WorldVenture, attended Western Seminary, and served at a couple VCN churches she has developed a passion for serving with VCN NCal/NV. sally@venturechurches-ncnv.com

Financial Summary

There has been a significant improvement in our financial position since last year. This is due to the sale of Silver Spur, which was final on July 27, 2023. Before the sale, VCN NCal/NV averaged a monthly net loss of around \$23,000 due to Silver Spur Camp expenses. Insurance alone has gone from \$14,886 a month down to \$932 a month. We are budgeted to have an average net income of around \$7,900 each month in 2024. We are now in a better position to come alongside our churches as they take BOLD next steps to reach their communities with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Below is a summary of our financial position as of November 30, 2023 and 2022.

2023 Consolidated Statement of Activities	VCN	Silver Spur	Consolidated	2022	Variance
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Revenue & Support	\$ 3,057,774	\$ 1,224	\$ 3,058,998	\$ 442,221	\$ 2,616,777
Operating Expenses	\$ 825,836	\$ 348,134	\$ 1,173,970	\$ 700,302	\$ 473,668
Net Ordinary Income	\$ 2,231,938	\$ (346,910)	\$ 1,885,028	\$ (258,082)	\$ 2,143,109

Financial Status	2023	2022
Cash & Investments	\$ 3,914,880	\$ 838,532
Permanently Restricted Funds	\$ (231,836)	\$ (222,436)
Temporarily Restricted Funds	\$ (114,161)	\$ (116,869)
Unrestricted Funds	\$ 3,568,883	\$ 499,227
Current Liabilities	\$ (2,571)	\$ (21,846)
Long Term Liabilities	\$ (55,439)	\$ (55,439)
Available Cash for Operations	\$ 3,510,873	\$ 421,942

Because of your faithful generosity, we can impact our region and beyond.

Please consider a gift today to help us take **BOLD** next steps for the cause of Christ.



venturechurches-ncnv.com/give/ →



Wendy Stroh | Accounting Manager

She was hired as our Accounting Manager in 2014. She holds a B.S. degree in Psychology and a Certificate in Advanced Accounting, both from Santa Clara University. She is grateful for the opportunity to use her education and work experience to live out 1 Corinthians 10:31, "Whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God." Wendy grew up in San Jose but has lived in Gilroy since 1993. She has two beautiful daughters, Jennifer and Michelle, whom she adores.
wendy@venturechurches-ncnv.com



RESOURCES

Association Opportunities

We offer a number of resources to our association churches.

- Ministry Leadership Certificate
- Healthy Church Assessments
- Ordination
- Preaching Cohorts
- Sermon Evaluations
- Employment Opportunities
- Retirement
- Chaplaincy
- Discounts for Western Seminary, Corban University, & Cedarville University
- Interim/Pulpit Supply
- Church Planting
- Tax Exemption (State and Federal)
- Pastoral Searches
- Elder Board Consultation
- Sabbatical Resources
- Pastoral Transitions
- Logos Bible Software Discount

Venture Church Network Regions



venturechurches.org

7 RESOURCES

Our National Partners



Western Seminary

The main campus is located in Portland, OR and a secondary campus is located in San Jose, CA. A discount is offered to anyone who is part of a VCN.



CORBAN UNIVERSITY

Located in Salem, OR. A discount is offered to anyone who is part of a VCN Church.



CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY.

Located in Cedarville, OH. A discount is offered to anyone who is part of a VCN Church.



WORLD VENTURE

Located in Englewood, CO. A global missions organization serving for over 80 years in over 60 countries.



Missions Door

Located in Englewood, CO. A missions organization focused on outreach on college campuses in the US and Mexico. They also serve globally in over 25 countries.



CB Global is a network of evangelical church associations worldwide cooperating to strengthen each other in fulfilling the great commission of our Lord Jesus Christ.



VENTURE CHURCH NETWORK
Chaplaincy

Our chaplains serve in all branches of the US Military (Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard) and its components Active Guard Reserve and Auxiliary). They also serve the Federal Bureau of Prisons and the Veterans Health Administration.



Interim Pastor Ministries provide temporary pastors to strengthen churches during pastoral transition for greater effectiveness.

venturechurches-ncnv.com/partners/ →




Andra Goodwin | Executive Administrative Assistant

She assists Josh Lane with administrative needs. Andra has extensive experience working for non-profit organizations in administration and resource development. Andra attended CSU, Chico, where she majored in English and met her husband, Josh. They have been married for 21 years and have two beautiful daughters, Maya and Jade. Andra and her family have attended Northside Church in Sacramento, CA since 2014 where she volunteers in children's ministry and is active in a women's Bible study group.

andra@venturechurches-ncnv.com

7 ABOUT US



 137 churches
7 church plants

OUR BEGINNINGS

It began with prayer, May 24, 1943. As World War II was raging on, churches were in conflict over the historic beliefs of the Christian faith. While some turned away from the authority of Scripture and the divinity of Jesus, many other faithful followers of Christ wanted to continue sharing the truth of the Bible and the good news of Jesus throughout the world.

OUR IDENTITY

Venture Church Network of Northern California and Nevada is an association of churches serving throughout our region. In January 1949, our association of churches was established to partner with seven other regions across the nation. For over 75 years, we have been committed to planting churches, providing resources for pastors and churches, leadership education, and fellowship.

OUR MISSION

We exist to honor God and serve churches by helping every fellowship take **BOLD** next steps.

OUR VALUES

GOSPEL-driven **BIBLICALLY**-committed **DISCIPLE**-making **RELATIONALLY**-committed

OUR BOARD

Tim Swanson | Redemption Hill Church, Santa Rosa, CA | Board President
Gary Rounsavall | Solano Valley Church, Fairfield, CA | Board Secretary
Josh Lane | Northside Church, Sacramento, CA | Executive Director

John Cassidy | Hope Community Church, Antelope, CA
Dave Gudgel | Director of Church Health
Judson Guerino | First Baptist Church, Turlock, CA
Andy Matzke | Sunriver Church, Rancho Cordova, CA
Nate Rehn | First Baptist Church, Monterey, CA
Scott Simmerok | Church on the Hill, San Jose, CA
David Whitaker | President, Venture Church Network

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THANK YOU



This is what your giving makes possible...

Thank you!

CONTACT INFORMATION



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