

2025

ANNUAL REPORT



**Geneva**

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*Loving God • Loving Others • Making Disciples*



## OUR VISION

We seek to share God's love with people whoever and wherever they are.

## OUR MISSION

All are welcome here! Just as God receives all who believe in Jesus Christ, Geneva aspires to be an inclusive congregation worshipping, learning, connecting, giving, and serving together.

## GENEVA IS A CONGREGATION...

...theologically centered in Jesus Christ, rooted in the gospel, set in the Reformed tradition, committed to loving God and others as a church in the Presbyterian Church (USA), and not known by boundaries of who's in and who's out.

...who is welcoming and supportive of all who are seeking a better way to live, even when their faith is not clearly centered and may even be tentative or unformed.

...blessed with financial and human resources, and a church campus to Love Saddleback Valley, our nation, and the world which has incredible human need. We affirm a worldview of abundance as opposed to scarcity as we seek to be the best Jesus others will see and encounter.

...who are followers of Jesus who desire to live in a way that inspires others to a better way of living that is promised in and through Jesus Christ.

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of life.

That Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life.

The Bible is God's authoritative message on how humanity is reconciled to God and is to live as a new community modeling hope to a hurting world.

The mission of the church is to love God and others through words and deeds that demonstrate the unconditional love, mercy, grace, and peace of God; that confronts injustice; and proclaims that all things will be made new in Jesus Christ.

The Church is God's presence in the Saddleback Valley, our nation, and the world, serving others, particularly those who are marginalized.

That authenticity and transparency are essential characteristics to embrace for wholeness as humans.

The confession of sin and giving/receiving forgiveness are normative Christian practices that are life-giving.

That God's grace is costly, freely given, and unmerited, beckoning all humanity to recognize their need for salvation.



## Contents

Pastor's Remarks .....	1
2025 Church Statistical Report .....	3
Members Who Joined the Church Triumphant in 2025 .....	4
Terms of Call .....	5
2026 Budget Summary .....	6
Finance.....	7
Generosity .....	9
Human Resources .....	10
Membership.....	11
Property .....	12
Congregational Life.....	13
<i>Board of Deacons</i> .....	14
<i>Deacon Fund Expenditure Guidelines</i> .....	15
<i>Geneva Presbyterian Women (GPW)</i> .....	16
Missional Life .....	17
Faith Formation.....	19
Worship Celebration .....	21

## Pastor's Remarks



My official connection with Geneva Presbyterian Church (GPC) didn't begin until 2026—whether you mark this to my starting date of February 1<sup>st</sup>, my candidating sermon and the congregational vote on January 18<sup>th</sup> (when Carter followed the vote with a loud, “Hey, Dad!—did you get the job?”), or my examination by the presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM) on January 8<sup>th</sup>—so my first true “Pastor's Report” will have to wait until next year's annual meeting. Of course—as I am sure anyone on the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) will tell you—a pastoral call doesn't emerge instantaneously with the COM's assessment of a PNC's judgment, so my broader connections to Geneva do stretch back into the year we are reviewing here (TYWARH), developing throughout the final third of 2025.

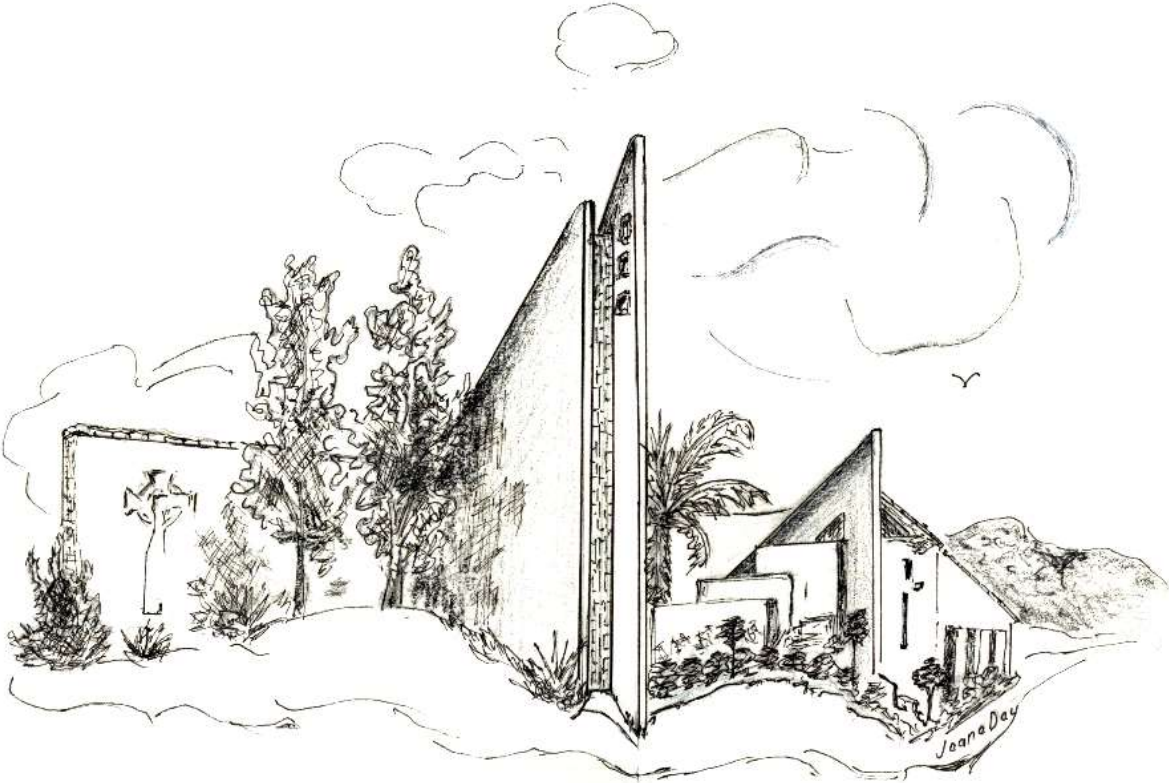
For me this began on September 2, 2025, when I received notice from the PCUSA Church Leadership Connection (CLC) Support system that I was “being considered” by Geneva. John McCallum (in his capacity as PNC secretary) sent me an email with a questionnaire on September 17<sup>th</sup>, but for some reason it never reached me; thankfully, he followed up with a text two weeks later and then re-sent the message (“Greetings to you, potential future Pastor...”). I sent in my responses October 1<sup>st</sup> (Jimmy Carter's birthday), which led to a Zoom interview on October 20<sup>th</sup>, an in-person (golf course-view!) interview on November 8<sup>th</sup>, a provisional offer on November 19<sup>th</sup>, a week-and-a-half of prayer, discernment, and family discussions, and then a provisional acceptance (pending COM and congregational approval) on December 1<sup>st</sup>—a whirlwind couple months in the latter part of the year!

The full span of 2025 was an exercise in faith and discernment for me, including multiple times when I was fairly certain I could trace how God had led me to a particular new place, only to have the clarity of that revelation prove to be a mirage. I have long known that we can often only discern the motions of God's providential hand in retrospect, but this theoretical knowledge never seems to weaken my desire to (and sometimes my expectation that I will) gain this understanding of God's workings a bit earlier. As I settle in at Geneva and have my sense of my fit here confirmed and strengthened, I find myself increasingly grateful not only for the doors that God opened, but for the ones God closed.

Thinking through all of the work that was done at Geneva last year, I am especially grateful for the prayerful labor of the PNC in 2025. And as I read through the rest of the 2025 annual report I am reminded of all of the qualities that initially put Geneva on my radar as I was researching open positions—the hunger for Scripture's nourishment, the depth and breadth of mission engagement, the way the Deacons (and others) care for the members, the faithful stewardship and age-defying labor of the Rowdies, and more. As I look toward the rest of my first year I am eager to continue to seek to preach and teach God's word, highlighting the centrality of Christ; to find opportunities to discuss

church history and our Reformed tradition; to work to coordinate, channel, focus, and expand the wonderful work being done by our passionate members; and to strengthen ties with our pre-school, the Village, and local coffee shops, and deepen relationships within our incredible community.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Darren



# 2025 Church Statistical Report

**Church** Geneva **PIN** 3994  
**Presbytery** Los Ranchos  
**Address** 24301 El Toro Rd, Laguna Woods, CA 92637-2738  
**Phone** 949-837-2323 **Fax**  
**Email** [info@genevapres.org](mailto:info@genevapres.org)  
**Web Site** [www.genevapres.org](http://www.genevapres.org)



<b>Membership</b>			
Prior Active Members	167	Adjusted membership	167
<b>Gains</b>		<b>Losses</b>	
Certificate	3	Certificate	2
Youth Professions	1	Deaths	6
Professions & Reaffirmations	4	Deleted for any Other Reason	3
<b>Total Gains</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Total Ending Active Members</b>	<b>164</b>		
<b>Baptisms</b>			
Presented by Others	0	Average Weekly Worship Attendance	108
At Confirmation	0	Friends of the Congregation	31
All Other	0	Ruling Elders on Session	11
		Do you have Deacons?	Yes
<b>Age Distribution of Active Members</b>		<b>People with Disabilities</b>	
17 & Under	4	Hearing impairment	20
18 - 25	1	Sight impairment	8
26 - 40	4	Mobility impairment	30
41 - 55	10	Other impairment	16
56 - 70	29		
Over 70	116	<b>Gender Distribution</b>	
<b>Total Age Distribution</b>	<b>164</b>	Women	110
		Men	54
		Non-Binary	
<b>Youth in Congregation</b>			
Age 4 and under	3	Middle School (6th – 8th grade)	4
Elementary School (K-5th grade)	3	High School (9th – 12th grade)	10
		<b>Total Youth</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Racial Ethnic</b>			
Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian	19	Native American/Alaska Native/Indigenous	
Black/African American/African	6	White	135
Middle Eastern/North African	1	Multiracial	1
Hispanic/Latino-a	2		
		<b>Total Racial Ethnic</b>	<b>164</b>
<b>Budgeted Income</b>	<b>742,812</b>		
<b>Budgeted Expense</b>	<b>785,345</b>		
<b>Receipts</b>			
Regular Contributions	556,614	Bequests	360,000
Capital Building Fund	0	Other Income	218,023
Investment Income	108,896	Subsidy or Aid	0
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Local Program	651,630	Investment Expenditures	14,187
Local Mission	50,923	Per Capita Apprt	8,803
Capital Expenditures	128,750	Other Mission	37,785

## Members Who Joined the Church Triumphant in 2025

Photo	Name	Deceased Date	Ordained Deacon	Ordained Elder
	Tom Jenkins	01/01/2025	Yes	Yes
	Jane Eastman	05/08/2025	Yes	
	Donald Martin	06/09/2025		Yes
	Dave Packard	07/02/2025		
	George Marsh III	07/31/2025	Yes	Yes
	Jane Kinney	07/31/2025		

# Terms of Call

## Solo Pastor: the Rev. Dr. Darren Pollock

Terms:

Annual Salary	\$	40,000
Housing	\$	60,000
Auto Expenses	\$	2,600
Total ("Effective Salary"/Pension Base):	\$	<u>102,600</u>
Medical: 29% x Effective Salary (max of \$35,000)	\$	29,754
Pension: 8.5% x Effective Salary	\$	8,721
Death and Disability: 1% x Effective Salary	\$	1,026
Temporary Disability Plan: .5% x Effective Salary	\$	513
Full Benefits: (39% of Effective Salary, subject to maximums)	\$	<u>40,014</u>
TOTAL EFFECTIVE SALARY PLUS BENEFITS:	\$	<u>155,014</u>

Paid vacation leave of one month, defined as: thirty (30) days annually, including their normal days off during the vacation period, with four (4) Sundays.

Paid Continuing Education/Study Leave of two weeks annually (cumulative up to six weeks).

It is understood that the following annual expenses of ministry will be reimbursed through an accountable plan:

Continuing Education/Study Leave:	\$	1,500
Pastor's Retreat	\$	500
Books & Journals	\$	500
Moving costs up to	\$	5,000
Pastoral discretionary expenses	\$	4,900
Total Reimbursable Expense:	\$	<u>12,400</u>

Sabbatical after seven (7) years - Terms to be determined

# 2026 Budget Summary

NOTES		2023 BUDGET	2024 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET	2026 Proposed Budget	CHANGE FROM 2025	
	<b>Operating Fund Receipts:</b>						
1	memo: Actual pledges	653,565	653,565	509,602	511,482	1,880	Estimate
2	General Pledges	673,565	663,565	519,602	521,482	1,880	
3	Loose Offerings	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	-	IIPC gives \$2K at year end
	Preschool -GCC	6,000	6,000	6,000	12,000	6,000	Increase by \$500.00 per month
	The Geneva School - TGS	77,200	91,200	159,000	177,000	18,000	Increase of \$500 mth 7/1/26
	IIPC	28,800	28,800	34,800	34,800	-	Possible increase next year per history
	Indonesian Protestant Church (GPI)	6,000	6,600	6,600	6,768	168	
4	Facilities Rental	3,120	5,560	5,560	5,560	-	
5	Cell Tower rent				2,472		New in 2025
	Dividend and Interest Income from Endowment	13,800	13,800	13,800	35,800	22,000	to Balance Budget
	Youth Endowment Fund					-	
	Appreciation from Endowment		-			-	
	Corpus of Endowment		-			-	
	Boyer Youth Contribution	78,000	29,473		48,000	48,000	To pay youth Salary and fund Youth Budget
	Loan from Boyer		-			-	
	Transfer from Mission accrual	22,780	-			-	
6	Trust Income	6,500	6,500	8,000	5,740	(2,260)	
	Special Gifts & Bequests	213,536				-	
	Special Fundraising - Rummage Sale		-			-	
	Miscellaneous			250		(250)	
	Surplus from prior year	(10,983)	-			-	
	<b>Total Operating Fund Receipts</b>	<b>1,121,318</b>	<b>854,498</b>	<b>756,612</b>	<b>852,622</b>	<b>96,010</b>	
						-	
						-	
	<b>Operating Fund Expenditures:</b>						
7	Personnel - excluding Music	722,337	(125,901)	396,611	474,442	77,831	
	Personnel - Music	118,618	125,956	125,244	126,000	756	
	Special Services (net-Memorials and weddings)	-	-			-	
	Music & Worship	13,195	12,805	12,305	12,305	-	
8	Property	78,667	78,190	81,800	88,890	7,090	Solar Expense removed / Line items added
	Administration	72,800	66,850	65,900	67,900	2,000	
	Telephone / camera loan payments	10,543				-	
	PNC Expenses	-	-	-	8,000	8,000	
	Generosity	1,500	725	725	725	-	
9	Faith Formation (Youth)	17,000	15,000	8,000	8,000	-	5-7 kids weekly Pay from Boyer
	Congregational Life	12,000	9,100	10,000	11,400	1,400	Last year \$10K sill has Est \$1300 after FaLaLa Lunch
	Communications	8,300	8,300	2,800	2,800	-	
	Membership	1,000	1,150	1,000	1,000	-	
10	Mission	65,357	65,357	50,960	51,148	188	
	<b>Total Operating Fund Expenditures</b>	<b>1,121,318</b>	<b>257,532</b>	<b>755,345</b>	<b>852,610</b>	<b>97,265</b>	
						-	
	<b>Projected Operating Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 596,966</b>	<b>\$ 1,267</b>	<b>\$ 12</b>	<b>(1,255)</b>	

## NOTES

- 1 Estimating no increase in actual pledges.
- 2 Increase pledges by \$10,000 representing non-pledgers who give + new members.
- 3 No Increase for 2026.
- 4 No Increase for 2026.
- 5 New Cell Tower rent
- 6 Presbyterian Foundation projected receipts for 2026.
- 7 Estimate only of new Pastoral salary & Benefits - raises for 1 salaried staff to meet CA minimum salary requirements.
- 8 Increase due to inflation cost and additional line items ( Inspections : fire extinguishers, Back flow valves, Elevator)
- 9 Faith Formation (Youth ) to remian the same - All payroll cost including Overnight Events & Camps to be paid from Boyer acct
- 10 10% of actual pledges

## Finance

**Chair:** Rod Kingston (elder)

**Team Members:** Patty Georges, Dave Lammert, Howard Prol

**Staff Resource:** Angie Najarian

Purpose:

- Produce accurate financial reports for the church
- Manage Endowment fund
- Manage 2 scholarship funds
- Interview candidates for scholarships, and recommend payouts
- Manage payroll
- Manage contracts
- Arrange an audit

### Financial Report - Year ended 2025

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$779,541	\$742,812	+\$36,729
Expenses	\$780,380	\$785,345	+\$4,965
Total	-\$ 840	-\$ 42,533	+\$41,693

- This means we almost broke even!!
- Our 2025 budget proposed a \$42,533 deficit
- The main saving was unused budget by PNC of \$30,000

### Scholarships paid in 2025

- Geneva Scholarships – 7 recipients – Total of \$ 15,000.00
- Mexico Scholarships - 8 recipients – Total of \$ 22,785.00

### Balances in Endowment accounts at 12/31/2005

- Endowment fund \$613,648
- O'Neill Scholarship Fund \$354,245
- Boyer Scholarship fund \$313,704

### Significant extraordinary Income Sources 2025

- We were blessed with 2 significant gifts:
  - The estate of Tom Jenkins
  - An anonymous gift

- Thank you for your generosity
- We request that all members consider including Geneva in their estate planning

### **Debt**

- Geneva is blessed by being debt free

### **Audit**

- A clean audit was received

### **2026 budget**

- Initial budget came up \$84K short
  - Ways to balance a deficit
    - Increase income
    - Decrease expenses
    - Draw from Endowment fund
  - Geneva did all 3
    - Increased rent from The Geneva School
    - Draw from Endowment Fund \$37K
    - Draw Boyer fund \$48K
  - It was decided not to slash expenses in view of new pastor coming on

### **Plans for 2026**

- Continue to provide a superior level of service
- Recruit additional members of the Finance team
- Submit audit in a more timely manner

### **Notes**

- Ray Miller, chair of Finance, had to resign for health reasons
- Rod Kingston took over As Treasurer and Chair of Finance, and is serving out the remainder of Session term

# Generosity

**Chair:** Carol Boeryd (elder)

**Team Members:** Jane Kingston, John Pomery

## **Description:**

- Encourage members to share their time, talents, and treasures in God's service
- Plan and implement the annual Generosity (Pledge) Campaign
- Offer Estate Planning workshop

## **Accomplishments in 2025**

- Hundreds of volunteer hours were spent in Geneva's programs and ministries
- Geneva received \$459,120 (93% of projected amount of \$493,202) in pledges from the 2025 Generosity Campaign
- Genevans donated \$2,985.00 to Special Offerings
- Genevans donated \$3,910.00 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- \$172.40 was received from the Ralphs Community Rewards program (10 households participated)
- A \$250,000 bequest was received from the estate of Tom Jenkins
- A \$100,000 donation was received from an anonymous donor
- \$511,482.00 was pledged to the 2026 Generosity Campaign from 72% of the Geneva membership. This is ahead of the 2025 campaign with 6 fewer pledges.

## **Plans for 2026**

- Encourage recurring donations and online giving
- Increase percentage of members who pledge (72% in 2025 / 69% in 2024)
- Increase percentage of members who contribute financially
- Plan a Legacy / Estate Planning workshop in conjunction with the Presbyterian Foundation (early June 2026)
- Promote and facilitate the Churchwide Special Offerings – One Great Hour of Sharing, World Communion Offering, and Christmas Joy Offering
- Be of assistance to help Genevans find a place to serve with time and talent

# Human Resources

**Chair:** Greg Rankin

**Team Members:** Elena Bennett, Jim Brown, Ruth Niebuhr, Mark Ryan

## **Description**

The Human Resources (HR) Team gives direction to, monitors the progress of, and evaluates Geneva personnel in terms of expectations and responsibilities, legal requirements of the church and its personnel, and evaluates the work being done. The HR Team works with The Finance Team to coordinate the effective and appropriate use of financial resources in meeting the needs of Geneva Presbyterian Church.

## **2025 Accomplishments**

The HR Team acquired new members who work together cohesively. Tasks in 2025 included reviewing staff evaluation process and keeping up with the many state and federal workplace requirements to keep up to date on legal responsibilities. There will be new legal training and items to be addressed during 2026. Youth advisor hours were adjusted to help our youth program grow and prosper. Salaries of staff were discussed and we will look at possible recommendations for 2026, reviewing the recommendations of Presbytery. HR worked with our Presbytery advisor on contract extension for Transitional Pastor considering the timeline of the Geneva Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC). HR worked in 2025 to plan the Appreciation Luncheon for our transitional pastor's departure in early 2026. Since personnel salaries and benefits comprise a majority of the church's annual total expenses, HR continued to work with the Business Manager to have monthly reports regarding those expenses.

## **Plans for 2026**

An HR team member has been selected to lead and begin the process of working with an outside agency to update the Employee Handbook and other legal requirements. It was felt that, in working with an outside agency, we will be consistent with other churches and workplaces and not need to invent what is already available.

Committee members will work with Presbytery on other workshops and training opportunities as they arise.

HR will continue to review staff with our new pastor to maximize the use of our resources and to address any areas of concern.

The Committee will meet with our new pastor to discuss how we can work together in the best interest of Geneva Presbyterian Church, its staff members, and all who are members and/or attendees of our church. We will look to support our staff members and programs, and to address areas of concern as they may arise, in order to maximize the resources available at Geneva and to best serve those who worship here.

HR will continue to work cohesively to address other issues, duties, and responsibilities as they arise and/or are deemed necessary.

## Membership

Chair: Jane Kingston

Team Members: John Pomery (elder), Laura McCallum (staff), Nancy Stapleton (Meet & Greet host)

## Description

- Staff the Welcome Center
- Track and follow up with new guests
- Organize and host Meet & Greet lunches
- Organize and staff Membership Exploration classes
- Encourage guests and new members to be involved in church life
- Track worship attendance and follow up with absentees
- Maintain accurate membership records

## Accomplishments in 2025

- 77 first time guests identified, 20 of whom returned for a second visit
- 12 guests at 6 Meet & Greet lunches
- 8 new members received
- New members have become involved in GPW, Network, Missional Life Team, Liturgy, Chancel Choir, Rowdies, Men's Bible study

## Statistics for 2025

- Membership at the end of 2025: 164
- Average worship attendance in 2025: 108
- Average percentage of members attending worship services: 44%
- Regular worship attendees who were not members: 26

## Plans for 2026

- Encourage all Geneva members to do more inviting and welcoming
- Continue to support the Connect Time in the worship service
- Encourage use of name badges when on campus
- Encourage regular non-member attendees to join the church
- Help new members and visitors to find their fit in the life of the church
- Follow up with absentees with the help of the deacons
- Assess the reasons that some visitors may feel uncomfortable or not fully welcome at Geneva and what we can do to solve the problem

## Property

**Chair:** Jack Clement

**Description:** Members include: Dave Lammert, Jim Troup, Samuel N'ganga, Rick Strickland, Laura McCallum, and Jack Clement.

**Accomplishments in 2025:** In 2025 the Property Ministry Team achieved the following:

- Creation of a Task Force to explore the hiring of custodial employees to replace City Wide. The Task Force included representatives from HR, Finance, and Property.
- Agreement with TGS to increase the monthly rental to \$15,000.00 beginning July 1, 2026.
- Completion of a chemistry lab for TGS in the Youth Room.
- Improvement of campus landscaping and irrigation system.
- Installation of handrail in Sanctuary steps.
- Purchase of new swamp cooler on kitchen roof which is over the kitchen range.
- Completion of T-Mobile project.
- Installation of new carpets in Simpson Hall, Saddleback Room, and numerous classrooms. Also, installation of stairway flooring.
- Interior painting of numerous classrooms and hallways.
- Installation of new Bunn coffee maker in Simpson Hall kitchen.
- Repair of stained-glass doors in Sanctuary.
- Installation of new HVAC system for the Sanctuary.

### **Financial Report 2025**

In 2025 the Property Ministry Team spent \$88,228.92 with a budget of \$81,000.00. The deficit of \$6,428.92 is due to unforeseen expenses under Repairs and Modifications.

### **Plans for 2026**

This year the Property Team plans to address the following:

- Contracting with the appropriate roofing company to address numerous roof leaks.
- Contracting with the appropriate tree trimming company to trim or remove trees that are a safety hazard.
- Negotiation with ITPC for a new contract.

## Congregational Life

**Chair:** Bill Sutfin (elder)

**Team Members:** Deacons: Shirley Fargo – leads 12 Deacons; Luncheons: Linda Erickson, Nancy Stapleton; Courtyard Café: Christine Njoroge, Christine Armendariz (2025/26), Diane Felton; Line Dancing: Mary Payne; Pancake Breakfast - Mark Reed lead and pancake preparation.

### **Description**

Provide support people for church luncheons scheduled by Congregational Life, organize and prepare for scheduled church luncheons – four per year – pot luck and catered; operate and provide food for the weekly Courtyard Cafe before church service, sponsor yearly Pancake Breakfast as a fund raiser for Youth Scholarships and retreats, men's and women's program, grief/ sharing program, Stephen Ministry (on hold for pastor), and Annual Meeting luncheon.

### **Accomplishments in 2025**

Successfully provided all the support activities noted above. The men's group and youth provided an excellent Pancake Breakfast (lead Mark Reed) which raised approximately \$3000 for the scholarships/retreats. Catered luncheons were held for the Christmas luncheon and Annual meeting for approximately 85 people. Two light luncheons were provided related to the welcome for PNC welcoming the new pastor, Darren Pollock and for HR and the going away of Pastor Elizabeth Steele.

### **2025 Financial Report**

For 2025, the Congregational Life budget was \$10,000 and actual expenditures were \$8,045. Due to generous donations from church members at lunches the budget under run was \$1,955. The Women's group budget is tracked and reported separately and is not included here.

### **Plans for 2026**

The plan for 2026 is similar to 2025 activities for most activities.

The 2026 Stephen Ministry program will be discussed with the Pastor. Ten people were trained in 2024 for this program and put on hold when Pastor Marsh left our church.

A Care/Sharing Program is planned for 2026. Gloria Newell has volunteered to lead this activity and will discuss it with Pastor Pollock. Books and other program materials can be purchased for approximately \$500.

A major portion of the budget is to cover church luncheons/catering.

The budget approved for the year is \$12,000. The increase is to provide for a catered Annual Meeting luncheon on March 22. This luncheon was not held in 2025.

In 2026, a Men's retreat will be discussed with the group to determine any interest.

## Board of Deacons

**Chair:** Co-Moderators: Shirley Fargo & Barbara Frink

### **Board of Deacons 2025**

- Nina Pomery
- Diane Smith (new for 2025)
- Foy Miller
- Christine Armendariz (new for 2025)
- Barbara Frink
- Verena Macchia
- Shirley Fargo
- Molly Levegood (new for 2025)
- Wendy McCalley
- Ruth Niebuhr
- Bill Sutfin: Session Representative
- Elizabeth Steele: Pastor
- Laura McCallum: Administrator

### **Description**

Our Deacon Board met 4 times during the 2025 year and an additional time with Session. Our focus was the implementation of our Vision and Mission this year. We continued to use **1 Peter 5:2** *“Care for the flock God entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly-not for what you will get out of it, (but) because you are eager to serve God.”*

Deacons worked together to create a revised procedure for disbursements of Deacon funds that is attached with this document. We are again looking at how we can meet the needs of each parishioner. A card has been created that will be given to each person in a parish, giving them opportunity to report needs that they know about for others or themselves. They may contact their deacon or moderator with names. The process is confidential. Our hope and prayer is that no need will fall through the cracks. Financial issues are very sensitive, and many are uncomfortable talking about them, but Deacons can't meet the needs we don't know about. Deacons contact individuals and families in their parish on a regular basis. Some Deacons have hosted potluck luncheons, taken meals to those who have had health issues or deaths in families through the use of Meal Train. Some have baked and delivered goodies, sent letters, cards and emails as well as made numerous phone calls. They have brought special needs to our meetings and discuss ongoing ways to support our members and community. This year we supported our Thanksgiving outreach, paid partial payment for an electrical bill for a member, purchased supermarket gift cards to give to those coming to the office off the street, paid for temporary shelter for a homeless person and made a car payment for a community member. Our Deacon fund started with a balance of \$25,775.54 and ended the year with \$35,198.78. Our goal this year is to support more people among our church community with financial needs and possibly make ongoing regular stipends for members who are struggling. We pray for discernment as we continue this important endeavor.

### **Deacon Fund Expenditure Guidelines**

1. A check request authorized by Pastor/Head of Staff and the moderator should be submitted to the Business Manager for reimbursement.
2. A gift to an individual or family shall not normally exceed \$500 and shall be determined by the Pastor.
3. A maximum of two (2) gifts may be provided to an individual or family within a calendar year and will be determined by the Pastor.
4. A gift or gifts to an individual or family that exceeds a total of \$1000 must be submitted by the Pastor or Representative from Session assigned to Deacons for review and approved by the Moderator.
5. In some circumstances a long-term payment schedule to a vendor is warranted. The projected dollar amount and length of time must be approved by the Pastor and Moderator of Deacons.
6. As a general policy, checks are not issued to individuals, but are issued to the service provider, vendor, etc.
7. Donations to the church for named individuals are not eligible for tax deductions (per section 70 of the tax code.)
8. It is suggested that the first Sunday of the month there will be a comment/request for the Deacon Fund placed in the ICW (bulletin).

## Geneva Presbyterian Women (GPW)

**Moderator:** Mary Gonzales

**Team Members:** Vice Moderator - Sherry Hoselton  
Secretary/Past Moderator - Linda Erickson  
Treasurer - Foy Miller  
Membership Chair - Jane Kingston  
Programs - Emily Tosh and Daria Clement  
Missions - Molly Levegood  
Bible Study/Sunshine/Choir Ambassador - Wendy McCalley  
Publicity – Gwen Sutfin

**Description:** GPW membership is open to women of all ages. Members are women who attend a Bible Study Group and/or participate in regularly scheduled GPW events: luncheons, teas, and field trips. Our membership was 91 members: 40 Members, 51 At-Large Members. Our Purpose is to engage in fellowship and to support Presbyterian and community missions. Our program year runs from September to August.

### **Accomplishments in 2024/2025:**

- GPW hosted seven monthly luncheons which included a visit by former associate pastor Leanne Strommen, an architectural tour of Geneva Church, a Hymn Sing led by John McCallum, our members' displays of vintage treasures, a friendship gathering, and an art class by Linda Erickson. Attendance varied from 30 to 39 women.
- GPW also offered a June Field Trip to Sherman Gardens in Corona del Mar.
- GPW hosted a Christmas Silver Tea – 171 tickets sold, a Spring Tea – 137 tickets sold, and Summer Daze Luncheon, 60 tickets sold.
- GPW contributed: \$972.50 to Los Ranchos Presbytery for domestic and foreign projects and \$1,240.41 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for recent fire relief, collected through Bible Study Groups and free will offerings at our luncheons.
- GPW also contributed \$416 to Geneva's Deacon Fund, and to the community; \$173 to San Joaquin Elementary School in Laguna Woods, \$215.35 to the Boys & Girls Club, Capistrano Valley, \$1,127 to Orange County Rescue Mission Double R Ranch, and \$2,584 to South County Outreach. This was accomplished through the generosity of women attending GPW events through free will offerings. Total \$6,728.26

### **Plans for 2026:**

GPW will continue to plan and sponsor our luncheons, teas and other events for the women of Geneva Presbyterian Church and all other women who visit us. We hope to enrich their lives through our programs while bringing them closer to a relationship with God through our luncheons and our Bible Study groups. Our goal is to invite more women to the luncheons and the Bible Study Circles. All women are always welcome.

## Missional Life

Aided by the generosity of the congregation of Geneva Presbyterian Church, the Missional Life Ministry Team (MLMT) had quite an active and productive year. In addition to sending quarterly checks to eleven ministry partners, the MLMT had a busy agenda, including:

- (a) Hosting two luncheons in McLennan Lounge, one involving groups addressing housing affordability and homelessness, and the other featuring a number of Laguna Woods Village organizations concerned with alleviating poverty within and around the Village;
- (b) Organizing a congregational trip to the Orange County Rescue Mission's Village of Hope;
- (c) Bringing Ryan Harvey's Project Love under its umbrella, providing financial support and helping publicize this ministry within the congregation;
- (d) Financially supporting a special appeal from PathLight International for a matching grant project;
- (e) Providing birthday bags for each child and youth at the Boys and Girls Club on Via Iglesia;
- (f) Organizing a Back-to-School Drive for the Boys and Girls Club that went from a goal of providing a limited number of school supplies for about a third of the children to actually providing both backpacks and supplies for all the children and youth;
- (g) Supporting the end-of-year celebration activities of the Boys and Girls Club.
- (h) Collecting and delivering donated food and other supplies to the South County Outreach Food Pantry throughout the year;
- (i) Having a successful Food Drive in October for South County Outreach that amassed about 1800 pounds of food and over \$900 in cash;
- (j) Following an allocation of \$10,000 from a very generous anonymous donation to Geneva Pres, disbursing this money promptly to local groups including: the OC Rapid Response Network; Vanguard University's Center for Women and Justice, which addresses issues of human trafficking; Friendship Shelter, which had just alerted donors to a shortage of funds for much needed hygiene products; and the Community Council for Giving of Laguna Woods Village (LWV) in its drive to deliver gift cards to the Social Services Department of LWV for Village residents experiencing financial insecurity;
- (k) Hearing about the ministry Wells of Life, from its Development Director, and providing a one-time financial donation;
- (l) At short notice, organizing a Thanksgiving Generosity campaign where, with \$2,000 from MLMT funds, \$3,000 from the Deacons, and \$2,600 from individual donations, 190 \$40 Aldi's gift cards were distributed to the Boys and

Girls Club (84 cards), South County Outreach (75), the Social Services Department of LWV (25), and to meet needs within the Geneva Pres community (6);

- (m) Organizing the annual Alternative Gift Market for eleven mission partners, resulting in nearly \$12,000 being disbursed to these partners from the event;
- (n) Speaking regularly to the congregation, particularly during the Opportunity for Generosity, to keep them informed of activities and thanking them for their ongoing support and encouragement.

These activities do not include valuable collections and donations for ministry partners by various small groups, the Geneva Presbyterian Women, and the choir.

During 2025, the MLMT elder position transferred from the always energetic Elizabeth Carlisle to John Pomery, supported by a very strong team of Saul Bonilla, Dave Lammert, Gloria Newell, Nina Pomery, Judy Scott, Diane Smith, Bob Weatherford and Lori Weatherford. Numerous others have helped or participated at various times throughout the year, and their specific support and that of the entire congregation is greatly appreciated. The Geneva Presbyterian staff have also been a tremendous help in maintaining momentum and keeping projects on track.

In terms of changes in strategy, with the closing of San Joaquin Elementary School, the MLMT has ramped up its links with the Boys and Girls Club on Via Iglesia (where many of the neediest of the children at the elementary school lived). In addition to Project Love, the MLMT has added as a partner the nearby Friendship Shelter, which has an excellent track record of rehousing and nurturing those experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness. The MLMT has also sought to develop links and collaborations with groups within Laguna Woods Village to help the financially insecure population there. The hope is to continue a strong level of activity and growth, being salt and light in a troubled world and noting the gospel messages of both Matthew 25 and Matthew 28, while planning to dovetail with the vision of our anticipated new permanent pastor.

# Faith Formation

## **Team Members:**

Joanna Capelle and Jack Clement (elders for Adult Ed), Christine Njoroge (elder for Youth), Barbara Lorenzen (elder for Children and Families), Saul Bonilla (Youth Director), Josue Lopez (Youth Intern)

## **Adult Education:**

In 2025, The Network with 29 members provided Adult Education classes at 9 AM each Sunday using the Feasting on the Word lectionary curriculum as a basis for lively discussion.

Leadership duties rotated on a monthly basis among Joanna Capelle, Jack Clement, Paul Reutzel, and Ron Shackelford.

In 2026, we plan to continue the Network classes and expand membership and leadership.

## **Youth Ministry Overview:**

During the 2025–2026 ministry year, Geneva Youth continued to foster a Christ-centered environment where middle and high school students could grow spiritually, build meaningful relationships, and develop a heart for service. Through weekly gatherings focused on Scripture, fellowship, and discipleship, students were encouraged to deepen their faith and support one another in their personal and spiritual journeys. Geneva Youth remains committed to cultivating a welcoming and nurturing space where students feel known, valued, and spiritually supported.

## **Attendance & Community Life**

- Middle School Average Attendance: 14 students
- High School Average Attendance: 3 students
- Adult Leadership: Faithful and dedicated volunteer support

While overall numbers remain modest, the ministry's strength is reflected in the depth of the relationships formed. The smaller group setting has allowed for highly personal discipleship, authentic conversations, and intentional mentorship.

## **Curriculum & Faith Formation**

Throughout the year, the ministry used The Orange Curriculum, providing students with a structured, engaging framework for biblical learning and faith development. Students explored Scripture through discussion, reflection, and application, discovering how God's Word speaks into real-life emotions, challenges, and everyday experiences.

## **Programs & Events**

Geneva Youth provided opportunities for spiritual growth, fellowship, and outreach through various events:

- Winter Retreat 2025: 14 students and 2 leaders attended
- Winter Retreat 2026: 4 students and 2 leaders attended
- Summer Camp 2025: 10 students and 2 leaders attended
- Hallopalooza 2025: 20 students and 4 leaders attended
- Service Projects: Food Drive and Project Love
- Fellowship Nights: Friendsgiving, Christmas Blitz, and Broomball

These experiences strengthened community bonds and provided meaningful encounters with God beyond weekly gatherings.

## **Spiritual Growth & Discipleship**

Students engaged in thoughtful reflection and spiritual dialogue throughout the year. They practiced sharing their successes and struggles, praying for one another, and offering encouragement rooted in faith. Through Scripture meditation and group discussions, students gained insight into how biblical truths relate to authentic emotions, relationships, and personal decision-making. This year saw continued growth in students' willingness to participate, share openly, and support one another in a Christ-centered community.

### **Outreach & Service**

Geneva Youth remained active in serving the local community, reinforcing the values of compassion and stewardship.

#### **Service involvement included:**

- Participating in local food distribution with Project Love
- Supporting food fundraisers
- Collecting donations for South County Outreach alongside the church family

These efforts helped students understand the importance of serving others and living out their faith in practical ways.

### **Leadership Development**

Students were encouraged to grow as leaders within the church and the youth ministry.

Opportunities included:

- Assisting with worship services
- Serving in the tech ministry
- Leading prayer during gatherings

These experiences fostered confidence, responsibility, and ownership within the life of the church.

### **Programs & Weekly Activities**

- Weekly Youth Gatherings included:
- Biblical teaching and discussion
- Small-group connection
- Games and fellowship time

### **Church Engagement:**

Students actively supported church-wide events, including decorating the sanctuary and assisting with congregational activities, strengthening their connection to the broader church family.

### **Looking Ahead**

As we look toward the coming year, the ministry aims to:

- Expand student leadership opportunities
- Strengthen small-group discipleship
- Increase outreach and community engagement
- Encourage high school student participation and growth

Our prayer is to continue nurturing a ministry where students encounter Christ, grow in faith, and develop a lifelong commitment to serving God and others.

## Worship Celebration

**Chairs:** Joanna Capelle and Kwang Seo (elders)

**Team Members:** Brenda Marchak, John McCallum, Eileen O'Hern (staff), Mark Reed

### **Description**

The Worship Celebration Ministry Team aims to offer inspiring and creative Worship services and has many volunteers serving several teams.

### **Accomplishments in 2025**

Worship Celebration Ministry Team organized several music events to attract the community including Spring, All Saints' Day and Advent concerts and an Organ Festival featuring two recent graduates of The Juilliard School. We also provided an Ash Wednesday meditative walk with 8 stations in the Chapel and two services of Comfort and Hope.

Many volunteers served in the following teams and some in more than one team: 55 volunteers representing 11 different church groups, participated in a rotation as Greeters for the 10:30 AM worship service; 11 audio/visual volunteers worked to provide information on the Sanctuary screen and for the Livestream with two people taking one month at a time in a 6-month rotation system; 8 volunteers served as ushers, 25 served as liturgists, 8 volunteers helped decorate the Sanctuary for the Advent season, 3 volunteers cared for the poinsettias.

The Chancel Choir, directed by Eileen O'Hern, accompanied by Charlotte Hsieh, with 4 Soloists/Section Leaders and 17 volunteers met every Thursday at 7:30 PM and provided inspiring music for the worship services. Regular volunteer pianists Juanita Tsu and Kwang Seo are a vital part of Geneva's music ministry, as well as guests from within the congregation and the community.

### **Plans for 2025**

The Worship Celebration Ministry Team will continue to offer inspiring and creative Worship services, provide Spring, All Saints' Day and Advent concerts, an Organ Festival, Ash Wednesday meditative walk, and a service of Comfort and Hope, and continue to grow our volunteer teams.

We thank Eileen O'Hern for continuing to grow the vital and varied music ministry as well as preparing weekly bulletins; Greg Rankin for coordinating ushers; Joanna Capelle for serving as music librarian, preparing communion, organizing Easter flowers and poinsettias, and coordinating volunteers for Advent/Christmas decorations and pew pockets and Kwang Seo for all his work coordinating the Greeters and the Livestream volunteers as well as elders for prayer after worship services until the prayer group led by Watt Prichard was formed.



---

24301 EL TORO ROAD  
LAGUNA WOODS, CA  
(949) 837-2323  
GENEVAPRES.ORG