

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016



PRESBYTERY OF  
**SAN JOAQUIN**

438 S. Locust Street  
Visalia, CA 93277  
(559) 739-0168

Email: [office@sjpresbytery.org](mailto:office@sjpresbytery.org)  
Web: [www.sjpresbytery.org](http://www.sjpresbytery.org)





## 2016 Annual Report

### PRESBYTERY OF SAN JOAQUIN

#### Rev. Dr. Les Hyder

It was almost exactly one year ago when I was elected your Stated Clerk/Executive Presbyter and the staff transitions started in the Presbytery office, after the retirement of Rev. Sandy Brown and Elder Cindi Rogers. They left us a strong legacy and detailed files for the transition. We thank Sandy & Cindi for their devoted service! The first task was to recruit and hire new staff. Thankfully the Lord led us to **Deacon Shirley Batchman** from the Visalia First Presbyterian Church who came out of retirement to serve as our Administrative Assistant/Office Manager. Shirley brought a wealth of experience in non-profit work. We were also blessed to hire **Rev. Deb De Boer** as the Assistant Stated Clerk, who assists me in the Clerk duties, but also covers the south valley for us, staffs the CPM Committee and applies her bilingual skills with our Hispanic Committee. Deb had served at mid-council level in New York and brought lots of new ideas and experience. Les & Deb both attended the Stated Clerk training in Louisville to become more efficient in our jobs. Replacing Cindi as the bookkeeper was a big challenge but Visalia First Presbyterian Church was willing to share their bookkeeper **Karen Anderson** who works on a contract basis one day a week. Then the Lord blessed us again when **Natasha Biasell** agreed to become our Communications Director and has proved to be invaluable. This month we are adding to our staff one other consultant **Rev. Roger Peterson** who will be our specialist for New Church Development and New Worshiping Communities. Roger brings over twenty years of experience and passion for church planting. All of our staff work part-time which has helped us reduce personnel costs, while still providing robust services to our congregations and the presbytery. Here are a few of the noteworthy events that we celebrated in the past twelve months.



## Highlights/Accomplishments:

- New website designed and launched
- Expanded Facebook postings and utilization
- Quarterly digital newsletter initiated with presbytery news
- Received a \$25,000 growth grant for the La Roca NWC in northwest Fresno
- Ordained and installed the Rev. Simon Biasell as pastor of the Woven NWC
- Les Hyder visited our churches on Sundays to get acquainted as the new EP
- Our Identity Team visited many congregations to hear their story and renew their identity with the presbytery
- We hosted the General Assembly Co-Moderator Jan Edmiston who spoke at our presbytery meeting and itinerated to several congregations to preach
- Vince Patton from the Program Agency visited to help us strategize on ways to address multi-cultural and multi-ethnic ministries in our diverse central valley
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance office dispatched a response team to our presbytery due to the Erskine Fire near Lake Isabella to assist us in a church response
- We received a grant from the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to help victims of the fire, and continue with workshops on Resiliency for the community.
- Our commissioners Rev. Mary Raine and Elder Cindi Rogers represented us at the General Assembly in Portland, Oregon and gave an upbeat report upon their return
- Rev. Les Hyder started a three year leadership formation program for new Executive Presbyters
- Per Capita giving was up dramatically amounting to \$83,000, including some past year catch up contributions
- Three clergy cohorts were organized to encourage fellowship for our pastors
- We celebrated the life of Rev. Art Kalafut, our former Stated Clerk and Pastor at Monmouth Presbyterian Church
- A clergy retreat was organized for our pastors at Calvin Crest with Rev. Dr. Rich Hanson as the guest speaker
- We established a spending policy for reserve investments and organized a new budget format.
- We resurrected a Representation Committee to insure the diversity of our committees in the presbytery
- We elected a son of the presbytery Rev. Adam Knudson as our Moderator, who grew up in the presbytery at University Presbyterian Church
- Missionaries Bob & Kristi Rice, serving in the Republic of the Congo itinerated in the Presbytery
- We held planned giving seminars at several congregations
- We celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the ordination of women as Ministers of Word and Sacrament

