



VENTURE
CHURCH NETWORK

N. California & Nevada

ANNUAL
REPORT
2024



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



Table of Contents

From the Executive Director	01

Director's Report	02

Leadership Education	03

Healthy Churches	04

Association News	05

Financial Report	06

Resources & Partnerships	07

About Us	08

Thank You	09



From the Executive Director

As Regional Executive Director of Venture Church Network of Northern California/Nevada (VCN NCal/NV), I am pleased to submit the 2024 Annual Report. The continuous pursuit of His vision for VCN NCal/NV has been the most important goal for our association. This past year, we had the opportunity to live out our mission of helping churches take their **BOLD** next steps in being:

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

Looking back through this annual report fills me with immense hope and joy because we see the evidence of God's vision for us aligning with all that was accomplished to advance The Kingdom in 2024. Throughout the year, I was blessed to connect with pastors, church planters, board members, staff members, regional directors, national partners, and countless others in our region who have genuinely worked to transform people's lives in Northern California, Nevada, and beyond. It has been a truly transformative year.

On behalf of VCN NCal/NV, thank you to everyone who has joined us on this journey. Our pastors continually inspire me with what they have built in their churches and the impact they have had in their communities. My prayer is that this report serves as testimony to the power and goodness of our God.

We look forward to continuing to partner to build his undefeatable church by following the Holy Spirit as he leads us into even greater things in 2025 and beyond.

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

Director's Report

Preaching Cohorts

We had eight churches preach through the book of Titus this spring for eight weeks. It was a fantastic series to walk through what a healthy Christian community looks like. 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 2025.

venturechurches-ncnv.com/preaching-cohort →

Church Visits

Throughout 2024, I traveled over 1000 miles to connect with pastors and churches in our network to see how our association could support and encourage them. I also visited churches interested in getting more information about VCN NCal/NV. Some of the locations visited were San Leandro, Santa Clara, San Jose, Los Altos, Morgan Hill, Manteca, Davis, Benicia, Pengrove, Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Grass Valley, Chico, Red Bluff, Anderson, and Cottonwood, CA. 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

VCN National Association

As Regional Executive Director, I am 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 2024, we met in Monterey, CA, Minneapolis, MN, and Boise, ID. 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 give me confidence that God is clearly working around the nation. Please pray as we partner together to transform lives with the gospel.

venturechurches.org →

Director's Report

Lead Pastors' Retreat

We hosted our 5th Annual Lead Pastors' Retreat in beautiful Aptos, CA, in October 2024. Over 80 lead pastors, wives, staff members, and national partners gathered to rest and connect with God and each other on the California coast. It was our largest gathering to date. We were inspired and encouraged by messages about how God is working in our lives and churches, and we gained honest insights from incredible speakers. The retreat theme of "For a Time Such as This" served as a reminder that we are not where we are by accident but have been called to this place to pastor in this time. You can view pictures, watch testimonies, and gain encouragement from our sessions together.

venturechurches-ncnv.com/lpr-2024-recap ➔

Men's Retreat

In October 2024, we partnered with Sun River Church in Rancho Cordova, CA, to host The True Man Conference. It was an inspiring call for men to lead their families in discipleship and worship. Headlined by Brian Hedges, lead pastor of Redeemer Church in Niles, MI, the event drew from the wisdom of the past to empower men in their spiritual leadership at home. Men's ministries help men develop community ties and strengthen their sense of purpose and fulfillment while helping them grow spiritually and increasing their faith. As a result of this partnership, VCN NCal/NV will host a Men's Retreat at Redwood Christian Park in Boulder Creek, CA, in October 2025. This retreat will continue the work of creating a space for men to connect and discuss important topics on an annual basis.

venturechurches-ncnv.com/mens-retreat-2025 ➔



Josh Lane | Regional 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. Josh is married to his wonderful wife Jenny, a first-grade teacher, and they live in Natomas, CA.

joshua@venturechurches-ncnv.com

Ministry Leadership Certificate Program

The Ministry Leadership Certificate (MLC) program exists to help churches 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 how beneficial it is both in helping people to understand the Bible better, but also communicate it with more confidence.

All of the video content for this program is provided to us by Western Seminary. I spent time working with the distance learning director at Western to adjust the courses that we offer to create a more integrated learning experience.


The program is designed around 4 key learning outcomes:

1. Bible Overview
2. Bible Study Methods
3. Theological Formation
4. Sharing God's Word

The first semester of the program gives students a big-picture understanding of the whole scope of the Bible and then teaches them the importance of careful Bible study methods. The second semester teaches them the importance of having a fully integrated theological framework. The second semester also offers opportunities for students to learn how to communicate the word of God in whatever context God has called them to.

The MLC is divided into two cohorts; one that is based in Northern California and one that meets at Campus Bible Church in Fresno. This year we have a dozen students in the Northern California cohort and a smaller group of 4 in the Fresno group. My goal for the future of this program is to work at offering this program to a wider audience. At this point it has mostly been offered to VCN churches. While the content is seminary-level, I believe that it could be accessible to high school students 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 really like the increased comradery and accountability that is possible when several students are all in the same location.

venturechurches-ncnv.com/mlc 

Ordinations

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 →

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 →

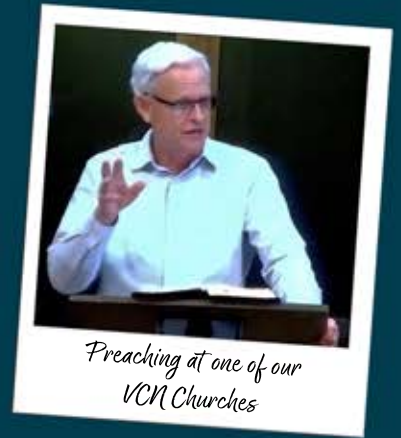


Andy Flowers | Director of Leadership Education

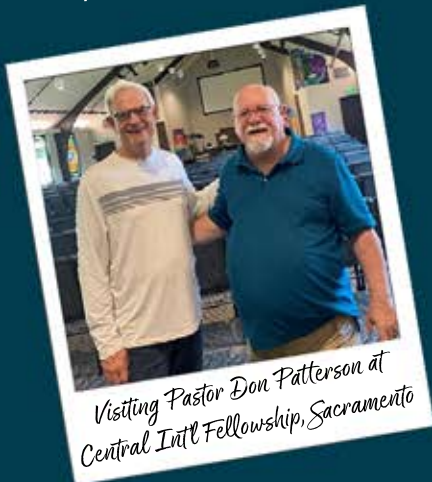
He has served as the Senior Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Woodland, CA since 2007. Andy received his MDiv, ThM., and DMin from Western Seminary. Andy has been married to his wife Camille for 27 years, and they have three kids. He serves on the board for Seminario De Oeste, a ministry in Mexico 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

Healthy Churches

What a year! Again, I've had the incredible joy of connecting with people like you. That's right, you! If you're a pastor, church leader, director, or up-and-coming church planter, you keep me busy and on my knees, which isn't bad. Praying for you and your ministry is my joy. Especially in this season of my life when I am mostly away on Sundays from our home and home church in Merced while I preach for many of you while you are taking a Sunday or two off. And if we aren't connecting on a Sunday, I am delighted to meet you at a coffee shop, favorite diner, or around a table with your leaders as we talk about dreams, plans, and challenges facing you and your church. I am energized by any meeting that has the potential to encourage and help you step into the future that God has next for your life and ministry.



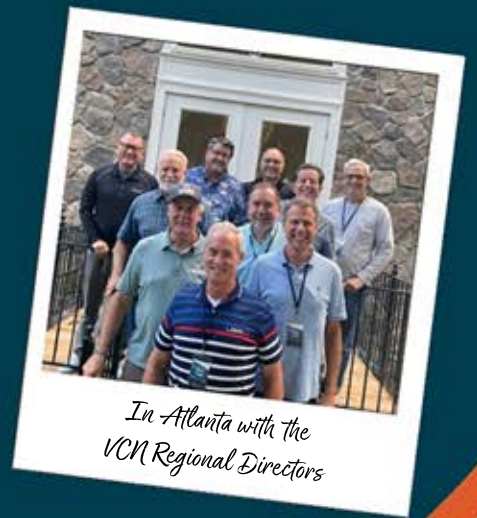
Preaching at one of our VCN Churches



Visiting Pastor Don Patterson at Central Intl Fellowship, Sacramento

What specifically do I do as the Director of Church Health for our Northern California and Nevada region? Well, this past year, I've spent significant time as the Interim Pastor at FBC Monterey. As you can imagine, I've walked along the ocean a lot, thinking and praying for how I can best help FBC Monterey and you. Are you thinking about a church assessment? Strategic planning? Do you need the support and wisdom of a fellow pastor? Are you facing a significant ministry decision, like planning for the inevitable Lead Pastor transition or succession? Do you need help with hiring a new staff member? Are you asking God what next steps you could take to help the church you pastor become more than a ministry with good programs, but one that is truly making disciples that make disciples?

I am available to help you with all of these ministry matters and more. That last matter – assisting churches to make disciples who make disciples - is one I am giving much time to here at the end of 2024, and it will most likely be a key priority in my VCN ministry in 2025. A little over a year ago, I joined our VCN Area Directors near Atlanta for an insightful discipleship training event that was very helpful. How helpful is yet to be seen, but I am praying for the best outcome as I am currently working with a couple of our churches that hope to make significant progress in this Christ-given endeavor. Maybe your church could benefit from this targeted focus in 2025. I would love to help you in this area or any others that reveal themselves. Let's meet up and talk about your life and ministry. Lord willing, I can encourage and support you in the work the Lord has for you in the coming year.



In Atlanta with the VCN Regional Directors

Healthy Churches

Church Assessments

Like a routine "check-up" is good for the ongoing well-being of your body, a Church Health Assessment gives you an understanding of the current health of your church body. Whether your church is thriving, plateaued, or in decline – a Church Health Assessment will help you make informed, bold, next step decisions as you carry out your God-given leadership responsibilities.

If your church is...

- getting ready for (or in) a transition of any kind...
- preparing for a time of strategic planning...
- contemplating future expansion...

... a Church Health Assessment will help you move toward greater health and ministry impact.

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 2024, 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

Our team works with member churches in transitions and pastoral searches. This year we are excited to share about some Lead Pastor Updates in 2024.

- Conor Janzen - Centerpointe Community Church (Eureka, CA)
centerpointeureka.com →
- Chris Bogstad - Grace Bible Church of Cedar Ridge (Grass Valley, CA)
gracebiblecr.org →
- David Lippman - High Street Community Church (Santa Cruz, CA)
hscchurch.org →

Lead Pastors' Resources

We are grateful for your partnership in our association. Our team continues to provide valued resources for you, your team, and your churches. As you faithfully serve, our association has been able to provide the following:

- Regular Newsletters to provide updates, news, events, opportunities.
- Ministry Leadership Certificate in partnership with Western Seminary.
- Ordination in partnership with your church leadership.
- **NEW!** Discounted vacation cabins for short-term pastoral rest in partnership with Redwood Christian Park (RCP) in Boulder Creek, CA.
- College and seminary discounts for students for those who attend VCN churches.
- Healthy church assessments for those who need a check up or an evaluation.

venturechurches-ncnv.com/lead-pastors-resources →



“Getting away as a pastor’s family can be challenging, especially to a place that is both beautiful and affordable. So getting to rest and spend time together at Redwood Christian Park was such a needed blessing. We returned to our ministry refreshed and with some fun memories.”

Chris Bogstad | Senior Pastor, Grace Bible Church of Cedar Ridge



Association News

Employment Opportunities and Placements

Our association posts current openings for our churches and ministry partners and assists in pastoral placement. We have expanded our posting throughout the nation.

venturechurches-ncnv.com/jobs →

Retirement

VCN is excited to offer a specialized retirement plan option through GuideStone to pastors and staff of churches in the Venture Church Network family. GuideStone is one of the nation's largest providers of employee benefits and financial services, working with 36,000 churches and nearly 600 ministries to offer retirement plans customized to help employees reach their individual financial goals.

venturechurches-ncnv.com/retirement →

Future Events

April 29, 2025 | Preaching Cohort starts

June 2025 | Registration opens for MLC

August 2025 | MLC starts

October 3 - 5, 2025 | Men's Retreat, Boulder Creek, CA

October 13 - 15, 2025 | 6th Annual Lead Pastors' Retreat

venturechurches-ncnv.com/events →



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.

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Financial Report

Our financial position remains strong this year. Our investments have outperformed our projections. But as you know, markets are unpredictable and can fluctuate from year to year. The consistency of your support, both financially and relationally, will contribute to the association's stability for years to come. We will continue to steward well the resources we've been given and come alongside our churches as they take bold next steps to transform the lives of those in their communities with the love and grace of Jesus Christ. We are creating more opportunities for churches to engage and support each other in this endeavor.

Below is a summary of our financial position as of December 31, 2024 and 2023.

2024 Statement of Activities	VCN	Budget	Variance
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Revenue & Support	\$ 708,387	\$ 619,821	\$ 88,566
Operating Expenses	\$ 527,295	\$ 524,899	\$ 2,396
Net Ordinary Income	\$ 181,092	\$ 94,922	\$ 86,170
Statement of Financial Position	2024	2023	Change
ASSETS			
Current Assets	\$ 4,945,352	\$ 4,696,656	\$ 248,696
Fixed Assets	\$ 1,399,783	\$ 1,414,099	(\$ 14,316)
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 6,345,135	\$ 6,110,755	\$ 234,380
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Liabilities	\$ 61,137	\$ 60,023	\$ 1,114
Permanently Restricted Funds	\$ 239,607	\$ 239,607	\$ 0
Temporarily Restricted Funds	\$ 99,090	\$ 114,963	(\$ 15,873)
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 5,945,301	\$ 5,696,162	\$ 249,139
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ 6,345,135	\$ 6,110,755	\$ 234,380



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, Denver Seminary, Corban University, Cedarville University, and Moody Bible
- Interim/Pulpit Supply
- Church Planting
- Tax Exemption (State and Federal)
- Pastoral Searches
- Elder Board Consultation
- Sabbatical Resources
- Pastoral Transitions
- Logos Bible Software Discount
- Lead Pastor Rest & Relaxation Stay
- Newsletter

Venture Church Network Regions



Partners

National Colleges & Seminaries




National Local & Global Missions



National Ministry Partners



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 since 2002 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





About Us

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

Scott Simmerok | President

- Church on the Hill, San Jose, CA

Gary Rounsavall | Secretary

- Solano Valley Church, Fairfield, CA

Josh Lane | Regional Executive Director

- Northside Church, Sacramento, CA

John Cassidy | Hope Community Church, Antelope, CA

Judson Guerino | First Baptist Church, Turlock, CA

Andy Matzke | Sunriver Church, Rancho Cordova, CA

Nate Rehn | First Baptist Church, Monterey, CA

David Whitaker | President, Venture Church Network



This is what your giving makes possible.

Thank You!



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