

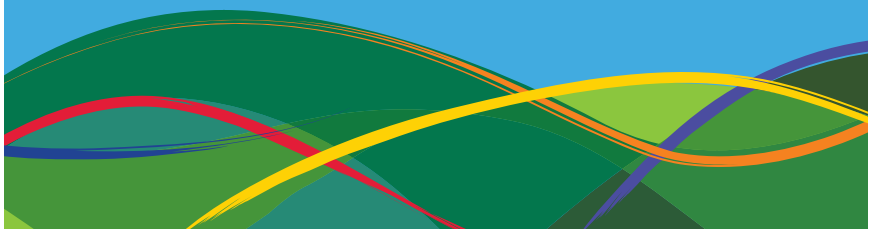
**Evangelism & Church Growth**

Ten

**Ten Dynamic  
New Churches**



General Assembly Mission Council



# Ten Dynamic New Churches

We are pleased to be able to share with you an overview of ten faith-filled and inspiring congregations. Some have buildings while others don't. Many have embraced the newest technology as a way of connecting their communities while others are just beginning to discover their potential. Regardless of how they attempt to connect, they all have realized the importance of being welcoming and are living out their faith by serving others. They represent a diverse blend of people who surely enrich us all by sharing and bringing their rich traditions and cultures to the table. All these new churches are passionate about proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. They are about the work of making disciples who are willing and capable of sharing their faith with those who need hope and the peace of Christ.

We hope you will not only enjoy reading about them, but that you will also follow up with their leaders and share with and learn from them.



## General Assembly Mission Council

Evangelism and Church Growth  
General Assembly Mission Council  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
100 Witherspoon Street  
Louisville, KY 40202-1396  
(502) 569-5000  
[www.pcusa.com/ecg](http://www.pcusa.com/ecg)



## Common Table

www.commontable.net  
150 Northwest Oregon Avenue  
Bend, OR 97701-2711  
Presbytery of the Cascades

Common Table is a new church development located in downtown Bend, Oregon. Common Table is called a Public House because it is open to the public for food and drink seven days a week. Its mission statement reads: ***Feed All People, Cherish the Earth, and Pursue Awareness.***

Common Table is available and attractive to ***All People*** in the following ways: \$10 Tokens (Common Table currency) are distributed into the community to be redeemed toward a purchase, and Grace Bowls are given away to people without money or tokens. Food served there, when possible, is locally sourced and organic, prepared and served by volunteers and paid staff.

***Cherish the Earth*** is accomplished by prioritizing choices that are thoughtful of creation: locally sourced food, recycling, cloth napkins and working toward zero waste.

***Pursuing Awareness*** is about humbly accepting that we don't have all the answers (God is Sovereign), and we are in constant need of education, prayer, and God's direction. To this end, Common Table pursues: educational forums; prayer and meditation gatherings; and

hosting a once a month communion service called Supper at the Table where the meal is shared, songs are sung, Scripture is read, and the Word is preached.

The first supper on Easter Sunday 2011 drew eighty participants, including homeless, young and old, professionals, retired, professed Christians and quite unprofessed agnostics.

Contact person: Zach Hancock, organizing pastor,  
zach@commontable.net



## Bare Bulb Coffee

www.barebulbcoffee.org  
1117 Highway 96, Suite 100  
Kathleen, GA 31097  
Presbytery of Flint River

First Presbyterian Church of Warner Robins, Georgia, took a leap of faith and asked the presbytery to join its efforts to launch a new mission in Middle Georgia. Their aim was to create a space in the area where individuals of all ages could gather for coffee, conversation and community. This congregation's efforts were joined by the presbytery's New Church Development committee, the Synod of South Atlantic, the General Assembly and neighboring congregations to open a coffeehouse to be used as the gathering place for a new community of disciples and a launching pad for mission to the Warner Robins area and the world.

In October 2010, Bare Bulb Coffee opened its doors to the public, serving fair trade, custom-roasted coffee and a warm dose of hospitality. Within weeks, musicians, artists, students and retirees found their way to the coffee shop and have made the space a center for conversation and artistic expression.

Out of that space, mission as well as coffee began to percolate. During the winter, one of the teenaged patrons asked about collecting blankets for the homeless. Bare Bulb decided to collect 50 blankets in 50 days. They put the word out on Facebook and announced it at open mike night. After 10 days, they'd collected 107 blankets.

Blankets turned to backpacks as Bare Bulb began to supply food for children who receive free school lunches during the week but often don't have enough to eat over the weekend. They started with helping five children, which turned into 24 children in two schools. Each week a list is provided of the needs, and each week customers bring the items to Bare Bulb. On Friday mornings, volunteers pack the backpacks and drop them off at the schools.

Bare Bulb has begun to host a weekly fellowship that meets on Sunday evenings, with singing and Scripture reading, and always with conversation and dinner.

Bare Bulb is a daily exercise in interpreting church as community. As Nikki MacMillan said, "The folks that are attracted to this kind of community aren't attracted to what we already had or they would have gone there." It may not look like what church normally looks like, but it's going to be church, of that she is sure.

Contact person: Nikki MacMillan, ministry director & head percolator, [nikki@barebulbcoffee.org](mailto:nikki@barebulbcoffee.org)



## Kairos Church

[www.kairosatlanta.org](http://www.kairosatlanta.org)  
Georgia Avenue Church Building  
645 Grant Street SE  
Atlanta, GA 30312  
Presbytery of Greater Atlanta

Kairos Church takes its name from the Greek word meaning "a holy moment" or "God-given opportunity." Their mission is to encourage one another daily to follow in the way of Jesus.

Their values include ***Christ before Christianity*** because following a person is different from fitting into an institution, ***People before Programs*** because all people are God's creation and have eternal value, ***Prayer before Politicking*** because God's power is infinitely greater than human power, ***Rhythm before Regimen*** because greatness must be inspired and nourished before it can be managed, ***Mission before Maintenance*** because Jesus was sent to us and now he sends us out into our world and ***We before Me*** because I may be good, but we are better.

Kairos Atlanta is an organism, not an organization; a network, not a bureaucracy; a catalyst, not the product; a community, not a building or institution; an airport, not a destination; a rescue and training vessel, not a cruise ship.

After 20 months inside a borrowed space in Midtown Atlanta, Kairos Church moved to their permanent location on Georgia Avenue. They painted, decorated and refurbished this historic red-brick church and



did such a remarkable job restoring the space that it has become a main attraction on the Grant Park Tour of Homes.

Kairos Church is a community based on people and family. Instead of having offices, the pastors spend their days meeting people in coffee shops, restaurants, homes and at family outings. They keep in touch through e-mails, a web site and Facebook.

Thomas Daniel, co-pastor of Kairos Church, said, “We don’t need to form the 44th task force on homelessness; we’re not about recreating the wheel. But we have lots of opportunities to plug people into service projects, from volunteering at the Atlanta Youth Academy to getting involved with the city’s sex trafficking issue. We are about connecting with spirit and one another, so we have small groups that meet weekly in homes throughout the city, not for reading books or studying the Bible, but to share lives, dreams and struggles together as a family.”

Contact persons: Beth and Thomas Daniel, co-pastors,  
beth@kairosatlanta.org, thomas@kairosatlanta.org

## Thien An Presbyterian Church

(281) 561-0711

(no website available)

7621 Boone Road

Houston, TX 77072

Presbytery of New Covenant

*Four*

Thien An Presbyterian Church started with a vision “to become a new congregation serving 150,000 people of the Vietnamese community in Southwest Houston.” Organizing Pastor Viet Ho has a strong passion for evangelism and began the church by walking the neighborhoods and getting to know the Vietnamese in the community.

The church began by offering classes in the areas that the new immigrants felt were most needed: computer classes, immigration and citizenship classes, ESL and Bible study.

When they were chartered in May 2008, the congregation had 88 members and seven ordained elders. All but twelve had been converted to Christianity from Buddhism through the evangelistic efforts of Viet Ho and the church’s leaders. Since that time, they have taught elders and other leaders to share the gospel, to evangelize, and to help meet the needs of the neighboring community. Membership is nearing 150, and the congregation is outgrowing its storefront location. They are now making plans to start a second campus or outreach in a neighboring area.

Contact person: Viet Ho, pastor, hoviet@aol.com



# Five

## Water's Edge

www.watersedgewired.org  
**A satellite ministry of Bel Air  
Presbyterian Church**  
5504 West 135th Street  
Hawthorne, CA 90250  
Presbytery of the Pacific

Water's Edge is attempting to develop Christ-followers as they pursue full devotion to God and to raise the priority of reaching out to those who are far from God by offering tangible expressions of compassion into their city and through strategic partnerships to the world.

They believe that God has called them to help make Los Angeles the greatest city for Christ in America. They are called to be and to make disciples of Christ. They believe that in order to grow in discipleship, it is imperative to build bridges and partnerships with other churches in Los Angeles and around the world.

This is a community that had over a hundred people gather for an initial informal worship and planning meeting to discuss starting a new church with the "DNA" of Bel Air Presbyterian Church. Their worship attendance at times has been close to 150 people. Prior to bringing on their new leader, Bill Crawford, a member of the Bel Air staff, they alternated between worship and leadership training in anticipation of becoming a new church.



They have a keen sense of wanting to reach the people of the Manhattan Beach/South Bay area for Jesus Christ. They are committed to witness by both word and deed. The Presbytery of the Pacific has shown great wisdom in fast-tracking the call of leadership for this new fellowship and making it possible for them to move forward.

Contact person: Bill Crawford, Bel Air Presbyterian Church/ Water's Edge, bill.crawford@watersedgewired.org



# Six

## Open Door Presbyterian Church

www.pghopendoor.org  
801 North Negley Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
Presbytery of Pittsburgh

"We are seeking to be a people who do not go to church but are being the church every day." That statement is not just a slogan on church stationery, but a statement of value and mission for the Open Door.

There is artistic development happening all over the East End of Pittsburgh. New galleries, artists' lofts, cafes, ethnic restaurants, and other businesses are sprouting up in the community. This entrepreneurial activity is an indicator of a grassroots movement among young adults and artists to move into this section of Pittsburgh. The pastor and leaders of the Open Door saw this

movement as an opportunity to develop a new kind of faith community strongly influenced by artistic expression, ancient spiritual practices and Christian community. The Open Door moved into the East End with the following vision:

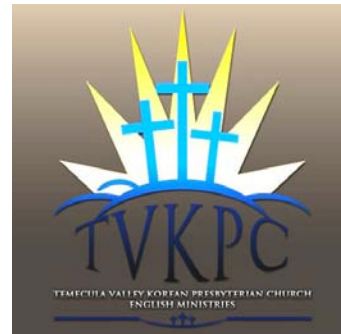
*We seek to live in the way of Jesus by practicing simple weekly rhythms – to regularly Listen to God, Learn from God, Eat with others, Encourage others and Give ourselves away to the world.*

The Open Door’s ministry appeals to artists, musicians and poets as well as young professionals and students. The congregation has established itself as a teaching congregation, bringing nationally known speakers and workshop leaders on the missional church. It has formed a partnership with Pittsburgh Theological Seminary by hosting the World Christian Discipleship, a year-long experience in spiritual formation for young adults. During Lent, the Open Door invites artists to interpret the Stations of the Cross in an exhibit open to the public. This year, in honor of the confluence of Easter and Earth Day the exhibits were created from recycled materials. “We connected the death and spiritual renewal of Good Friday and Easter with the hope of earthly renewal implicit in Earth Day and the resurrection of old materials,” said Bernie Wilkie, the co-curator.

One of the most exciting ministries of the Open Door is Garfield Farm, an organic urban farming initiative in neglected and abandoned neighborhoods in the inner city. Garfield Farm exists to provide the best quality local produce to people in city neighborhoods. It also provides community engagement, environmental education, and education on holistic healthy living.

The Open Door is on to something new and exciting. Pittsburgh Presbytery says it is blessed to have the opportunity of being a part of what they are doing.

Contact person: BJ Woodworth, lead pastor, [bj@pghopendoor.org](mailto:bj@pghopendoor.org)



Seven

## **Temecula Valley Korean Presbyterian Church**

(951) 642-2943  
(no website available)  
33122 Grape Street  
Wildomar, CA 92595  
Presbytery of Riverside

Temecula Valley Korean Presbyterian Church (TVKPC) began less than a decade ago as a small group of folks gathered to pray. Very early on, however, they combined their prayer with a sense of being called out into the world. The church’s congregation has grown steadily and believes it is poised for inevitable membership growth.

There are plans to establish two teaching hospitals nearby, and TVKPC is in a unique position to attract many second-generation Korean health care professionals who are likely to move into the area. TVKPC offers Korean-language school on Sunday afternoon. There is a great desire among second-generation Korean parents to teach their children the Korean culture and language in order to emphasize the importance of their identity as Korean Americans, thereby making the school popular with Korean parents.

For those who must work on Sundays, the church has started an early morning service, and they offer an English language service for those who have difficulty understanding the Korean language. This service

not only attracts future Korean American members, but it will also serve non-Korean members.

TVKPC offers assistance to the homeless, financially supports a home for battered women and serves as an information center concerning health, housing, education and other social services. They hope to expand these community services with the increase of English-speaking members who are also health care providers.

Internationally, TVKPC is supporting children and numerous missionaries in Africa, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, India, Mexico and an underground Iranian church. They have participated in every major international disaster relief effort in the recent past by working with major support groups such as the Red Cross.

Contact person: Peter Kwon, senior pastor, [peterskskwon@gmail.com](mailto:peterskskwon@gmail.com)



EL BUEN PASTOR  
LATINO COMMUNITY SERVICES



## Misión Hispana El Buen Pastor

(336) 391-3193

(no website available)

4637 Tim Road

Winston-Salem, NC 27106

Presbytery of Salem

Imagine moving your family to a strange land where you don't speak the language and don't know the customs. Then imagine not being able to find a friendly face. Misión Hispana El Buen Pastor hopes to be that face. This new church is a welcome home for new Latino immigrants, most of whom are Mexican and Central American.

The church started with eight people and now serves 72 families—about 180 adults and 200 children.

El Buen Pastor is in a neighborhood that has seen a change in demographics. At the same time, Salem Presbytery was looking for an opportunity to minister to the growing Latino population. The new church provides not just a safe space and a worship opportunity, but a ministry that also provides the community with other services and resources.

El Buen Pastor started a nonprofit called Latino Community Services. Staffed by more than 100 volunteers, they offer English as a second language and basic computer skill classes.

Over time immigrants have gotten to know their new home, and the volunteers have come to understand the challenges and difficulties their new neighbors often face. Many of the families served earn low incomes, so the gifts of time and talents from so many volunteers are very much appreciated.

For many, El Buen Pastor is their first church home, so it's about more than reaching out to a new group in the community. Ninety-eight percent of the families are disconnected from the church and are new to the good news. El Buen Pastor has led them to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior, and they are now taking ownership of the church as they learn to become Presbyterians.

Perhaps the biggest gift members have received is one that may have been unintentional but is such a simple thing. Rosa Gonzalez, pastor of El Buen Pastor, said, "It has been a wonderful blessing that



people coming here from a different country now feel that they belong to the Presbyterian brothers and sisters and other communities of faith throughout the country. That is very important for people who sometimes feel not welcome. This sense of belonging is very important for them.”

Contact person: Rosa Blanca Gonzalez, pastor  
rosablanca@windstream.net

## Urban Life Church Services

www.ljpres.org

**Orange Avenue Worship  
Service – A ministry of La  
Jolla Presbyterian Church,  
La Jolla, CA**  
5202 Orange Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92115  
Presbytery of San Diego

Urban Life Church is an outgrowth of the youth ministry of La Jolla Presbyterian Church. The associate pastor was leading youth ministry in an offsite location. After some time, he noticed a



significant number of students needing rides home were going to a section of San Diego away from where they were meeting. The leadership followed the breadcrumbs and discovered a community in need.

Urban Life Church got permission to use a defunct church building in the neighborhood and developed a worshipping community. They have reached the adult population through youth ministry. Though not yet officially a new church, they are well on their way. This multiethnic congregation is a great example of a healthy suburban congregation reaching out into the city well beyond its bounds.

Contact person: Jake Medcalf, associate pastor, Urban Life/Orange Avenue Campus, jakem@ljpres.org

*Nine*

*Ten*

## Northland Village Church

www.northlandvillagechurch.com  
Glenfeliz Elementary School Auditorium  
3955 Glenfeliz Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90039  
Presbytery of San Fernando

They have taken an innovative approach to reaching the highly secular population in Northeast Los Angeles. They are a new



church plant that is passionate about creating spaces for reconciling relationships.

As a community they have latched tightly to 2 Corinthians 5:16–21.

*“And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.”*

Their mission applies the reconciliation of Christ to all aspects of city life. They are uniquely gifted in working with the community and its concerns. To put it simply, they are becoming what they believe God is calling them to become. This becoming is focused upon their being Christ’s ambassadors and agents of reconciliation in the communities that they find themselves.

They are a growing worshiping community that was chartered on their first day of worship, Easter 2010. Their leader is a seminary graduate who is a commissioned lay pastor through Glendale Presbyterian Church. The Presbytery of San Fernando has shown great skill in thinking creatively on this new church. The church and presbytery have demonstrated what it means to be a missional people. They have been truly innovative in reaching the great diversity of their neighborhood.

Contact person: Nick Warnes, pastor  
nick@northlandvillagechurch.com



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