

Presbytery of Los Ranchos

Core Values of Council

(Adopted on 8/29/17)

These Core Values are commitments and behaviors that Presbytery Council seeks to encourage in every leader and ministry of our presbytery. They support our **presbytery's vision**, which is:

"To be a community of flourishing congregations that joyfully participate in God's redemptive work through Jesus Christ in the world."

Cultivating Healthy Congregations – directing resources to equip church leaders to shepherd and grow communities of mission and worship, as well as to start new ones.

We commit ourselves to "assisting and supporting the witness of congregations to the sovereign activity of God in the world, so that all congregations become communities of faith, hope, love and witness" (Book of Order G-3.03).

Living a Reformed Faith – committing ourselves to discipleship within the Reformed Tradition, acknowledging our sin and God's sovereignty, and living as faithful members of the PC(USA).

Essential to our witness is the authority of Scripture, the guidance of the Book of Confessions and the polity of the Book of Order. We commit ourselves to the ecclesiology and mission found therein. This includes Marks of the Church, the Historic Principles of Church Order, and the Principles of Presbyterian Government.*

Fostering Innovation – letting go of systems and structures that no longer serve God's mission and embrace new ones that do.

We commit ourselves to the leading of the Holy Spirit which binds us to Jesus Christ. In Christ, God promises a new future for all creation. In openness to God's sovereign activity, we will seek new forms and practices of faith and ministry that "lead us into a more radical obedience to Christ, and to a more joyous celebration in worship and work" (Book of Order F-1.0404).

Pursuing Unity with Diversity – seeking visible unity in the midst of racial, ethnic, and theological diversity.

As an organic whole, we are inseparably bound together by the love and covenants of God. We will work out our differences in love, becoming friends who lay aside agendas for the common good, even as Christ laid down his life for the benefit of all.

Choosing Authenticity – creating an environment where all feel encouraged to share their thoughts and are treated with love and respect.

We commit ourselves to finding our identity, security, and purpose in the love of God through Jesus Christ. As a sign of our belovedness, we are open and honest with each other, humbly and sensitively sharing our thoughts and ideas, our feelings and our hopes.

* Links to "Marks of the Church," "Historic Principles of Church Order," and "Principles of Presbyterian Government."