

Recommendation for District Conference Date and Locations

History and Background

Program Committee has been working for the past several years on ways in which to simplify the planning and organization of the Pacific Southwest District Conference. We have intentionally allowed for more time to focus and “reflect the full call to be a place for business, worship, education, and fellowship. We envision District Conference being an event that equips attendees to return to their congregations with both renewed vision and skills for ministry.” (Program Committee Vision Statement, 2006)

One part of moving in this direction involved finding a consistent date on which to hold the District Conference, and to look for facilities to host District Conference that could handle much of the work that had been done by volunteers from nearby local congregation(s). This decision was made because most of our congregations do not have the facilities or membership to host a District Conference. However, concerns about travel expenses to locations that are not near major airports have been raised by delegates in the past few years.

The 2009 District Conference approved a recommendation that established the second weekend of November as the date for District Conference. District Conference in 2009 and 2010 were hosted at a hotel and at Hillcrest, respectively, with positive responses to this kind of arrangement by most of the attendees. Hillcrest has been very receptive to hosting us and have been wonderful partners to work with in planning the conference. The District Conference will be hosted at Hillcrest again in 2012.

Current Understanding

Pacific Southwest District Constitution and By-Laws, Article II/ F:

“District Conference is held annually in October or November as determined by the District Board of Administration. The location of the meeting is determined by District Conference, alternating in the northern and southern areas of the District when possible.”

Rational for Recommendation

The Program Committee has considered several options, and believes that it is best that we move to a rotating location schedule that seeks to utilize hotels, conference facilities, and other locations that are near major airports. We would continue to move the conference throughout the District while recognizing the location of the membership within the District, and where the travel centerpoint is located.

Recommendation

For the above reasons we recommend that the date and location for District Conference schedule be the following:

Pacific Southwest District Conference will be held annually on the weekend including the second Saturday of November.

The location of the District Conference as determined by the Program Committee and will, when possible, follow a rotating schedule in the district by meeting:

2 years at a site in the Los Angeles/Southern California area;

1 year at a site in the Phoenix, Arizona area;

2 years at a site in the Los Angeles/Southern California area;

1 year at a site in the Sacramento/Northern California area.

Action of the Pacific Southwest District Board of Administration:

The District Board of Administration, meeting at the Hillcrest Retirement Community, La Verne, California, on August 27, 2011, unanimously approved the recommendation for consideration by the Pacific Southwest District Conference on November 12, 2011.