

Ten Benefits of Being an Affiliated Church with Converge PacWest

1. Your ministry impact expanded and extended

Converge PacWest's mission is to *delight God by starting and strengthening churches that transform lives and communities here, near, and far away*. Affiliated churches have the privilege and joy of seeing our joint efforts expand and extend our gospel impact beyond the "here" (your hometown), to include both "near" (as together we start churches in San Francisco, Santa Cruz, and the San Joaquin Valley), and "far away" (as we resource and empower churches in Haiti, Argentina, Estonia, and Uganda).

2. Pastoral leadership support

The pastoral leadership role can be hazardous and lonely. We offer peer and personal support through localized LEAD Teams who meet regularly so Lead Pastors can learn, be encouraged, achieve, and dream together. Encouragement Teams are also forming for wives of Lead Pastors.

3. Leadership training

Four to six times each year, regional leadership training is offered on practical ministry matters. In addition, tools and resources are available to help assess a church's health, to re-set a church's direction, and to spiritually train lay leaders.

4. Dynamic partnerships

You can learn from others who are doing what you want to do! In Converge, churches remain autonomous, but our churches and leaders are finding it mutually beneficial to be in partnership with sister churches in order to learn and share best practices in ministry and to occasionally share key re-usable resources.

5. Conflict resolution support

Often we wish conflict was not a part of the Christian community, or that it would just go away; but it is, and it won't! Converge PacWest (CPW) offers training for church leaders, recommends every church have a conflict resolution policy/pattern, and can be an objective party in making difficult areas of conflict in your church constructive!

6. Shared events and activities

Men's, Women's and Classic Adult Retreats, as well as short-term missions are some areas where some of our churches have enjoyed experiencing fellowship with sister churches and where the organizational aspects are covered by CPW. CPW also assists churches in preparing candidates for ordination.

7. Theological integrity and stability

Converge has a history as an international entity with baptistic theological roots. We are solidly evangelical emphasizing the major historical doctrines of Christianity without being dogmatic on fringe issues. Practically speaking, we are an association that is enriched by diverse expressions of Christ's church.

8. Multicultural experiences and appreciation

Converge was begun by Swedish immigrants and is now made up of people from virtually every nation. In our region we have intentionally multicultural, Filipino, Latino, Vietnamese, Chinese, and Lu Mien churches. We believe the cutting edge of our church starting and strengthening movement will continue to expand our cultural diversity.

9. Financial services

Converge Worldwide can help churches build buildings and can help ministry staff build retirement plans. We are also looking to see if we can maximize our associational connection to receive better rates on property and health insurances.

10. Navigating church transitions and pastoral placement

CPW helps churches experiencing staff and leadership changes.