



COURAGEOUS LOVE CAMPAIGN



The Episcopal Diocese of San Diego





Letter from the Bishop



Campaign Goals



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Prologue

LETTER FROM BISHOP SUSAN

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary....Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:28, 31

Here in the Diocese of San Diego, we are a people of Courageous Love. We have confidence that God has given us all we need to follow Jesus and share God's good news with the world. Yes, we have suffered from a pandemic, whose effects on attendance at our churches linger. Yes, we are a diocese who experienced losses from the divisions of the mid-2000s. And yes, we are in a world where fewer Americans seek out community within churches; many prefer to retreat into online worlds they can experience from the comforts of their home.

But our church has something to offer our increasingly divided and individualized world. Our church honors the image of God in every person, and proclaims the love of God in all walks of life. And we believe that Christ still brings good news that can transform our churches and our communities, serve our neighbor, and bring healing to our wider society.

To share this good news, The Episcopal Diocese of San Diego needs Courageous Love.

Christ calls us to love, and Christ gives us courage. Courage is the strength to act in the face of fear. Courage is the decision to take a risk for the right cause. Courage is the faith that when we work for God's mission, the Holy Spirit will empower us to accomplish what God calls us to do.

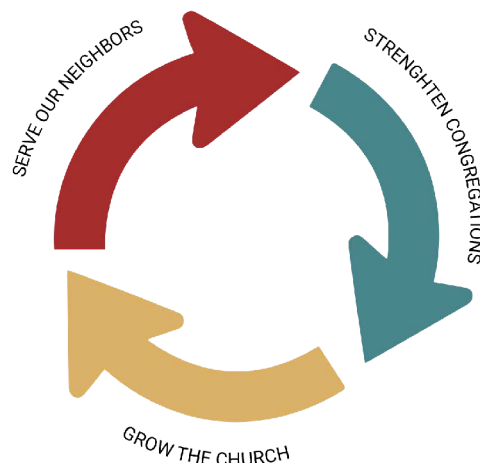
Courage is a word that comes from the Latin for "heart." To have courage is to have the heart to live in the truth of God's love for us and God's love for this world.

This is a time for Courageous Love. It's a time for us to put our hearts into God's mission for this time and this place – the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego.

Our world faces many challenges today. Yet there is no time when God's love is more vital than a time of trouble and stress. There is no community more in need of the good news of Jesus than a community that lives in a time of turmoil. In fact, that's exactly the kind of world Jesus came to. It's the kind of world in which Christianity first thrived. And it's the kind of world that is hungry for the transformation only the living God can offer.

The Diocese of San Diego has a bold, courageous, God-given vision. Our vision clearly acknowledges the change that is happening in the world around us, and responds with love, joy, and courage. Jesus commanded us to share God's love, and in the Diocese of San Diego, we are deeply committed to sharing that love.

Our vision grows from the Strategic Plan that our diocese published in 2020. In the midst of that pandemic-stricken year, we still had the courage to look to the future.



As we addressed the myriad challenges the pandemic brought, we courageously began to move towards the aspirations set forth in this plan. And as you will see, we have made significant advances. But there is more still to be done, and I want to invite you to join me in pursuing our vision to become a growing, diverse, worshipping community of Jesus Christ's followers, courageously sharing God's transforming love in our neighborhoods and beyond.

The Courageous Love campaign will strengthen congregations, serve our neighbors, and grow the Church by building on the strides we have already made in our post-pandemic work. To ensure the long-term sustainability of our diocese, we will provide resources for leadership, discipleship, and evangelism. By supporting congregations poised for growth and vitality, establishing new churches, and creating college ministries, we can reach out to new populations. As the shape of congregational ministry shifts, we will assist our parishes in discerning how best to use their campuses in a spiritually fulfilling and financially sustainable manner.

As you can imagine, these areas of emphasis impact and reinforce each other. When we serve our neighbors, our congregations discover new members. By addressing the housing crisis in San Diego, we generate income for our congregations. When we gain new members, we meet future leaders of our church whom we might not have encountered otherwise.

Will you join me in preparing for our future and sharing God's Courageous Love? Our goal is to raise \$2.5 million to answer God's call to mission in our diocese. Together, we can change the future of the Episcopal Church in our region. In the following pages, you will find more information about what we have already accomplished, what we hope to achieve with your help, and how you can support this campaign.

With Courageous Love, we act in faith that the Episcopal Church has life-transforming good news to share with the world. We trust God's promises, because we know that God is faithful.

This is a plan that calls for Courageous Love.



The Rt. Rev. Dr. Susan Brown Snook



Courageous Love Campaign

GROW THE CHURCH - STRENGTHEN OUR CONGREGATIONS - SERVE OUR NEIGHBORS

The Episcopal Church has a vital and essential witness to offer the world: God loves every human being—and through God's Son, Jesus, God offers redemption, hope, and promise to all creation.

GROW THE CHURCH

Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20



PLANT NEW CHURCHES IN COMMUNITIES THAT HAVEN'T HEARD ABOUT CHRIST'S LOVE.



SUPPORT OUR CURRENT CONGREGATIONS IN COMMITTING THEMSELVES TO EVANGELISM AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.



REACH OUT INTENTIONALLY TO THE MARVELOUSLY DIVERSE POPULATIONS AROUND US WITH WORSHIP IN NEW LANGUAGES AND NEW CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS.



DEVELOP DISCIPLESHIP AMONG CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND YOUNG ADULTS TO PASS THE CHRISTIAN FAITH ON TO NEW GENERATIONS.

Your contribution will help us plant two to five new congregations, grow our current congregations through intentional evangelism and outreach to new populations, create campus ministries, and support children's and youth programs across the diocese.

Courageous Love Campaign

STRENGTHEN OUR CONGREGATIONS

Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

As congregations emerge from the pandemic and respond to decades of decline across the Episcopal Church, God calls our diocese to strengthen congregations for ministry vitality, leadership development, and financial sustainability.



DEVELOP NEW LEADERS FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS, including:

- Recruit and equip leaders of all ages and ethnic background to minister in our diverse community
- Provide financial, mentoring, and ministry support to a new generation of leaders
- Equip lay and ordained leaders for a new era of mission through a Congregational Development training



SUPPORT CONGREGATIONS IN DEVELOPING REAL ESTATE PROJECTS TO SUPPORT CONGREGATIONAL MISSION. Our Mission Real Estate Project will provide technical expertise and feasibility support to help our congregations:

- Guide congregations toward long-term financial sustainability
- Provide affordable housing and other services for clergy and the wider community;
- Help our congregations expand their missions with new community partners



PROVIDE GRANTS TO CONGREGATIONS IN AMOUNTS BETWEEN \$10K AND \$50K FOR MISSION AND EVANGELISM THAT WILL:

- Strengthen their mission
- Support launching worship services to reach new populations
- Improve congregational outreach and invitation practices
- Underwrite community outreach events

With the generous contributions of donors like you, we will cultivate congregational leaders who guide our parishes and missions to thrive in their context, growing in membership, serving new populations, and sharing the Good News of Christ throughout this region.

Courageous Love Campaign

SERVE OUR NEIGHBORS

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me."
Matthew 25:40

As we look at the people in our communities, many needs are clear – affordable housing and care for those without homes, food security, and support for immigrants and refugees, to name a few. Many of our congregations and diocesan institutions work tirelessly to alleviate suffering in their neighborhoods. We want to strengthen our work of service in God's name.



MISSION AND EVANGELISM GRANTS TO CONGREGATIONS WILL **SUPPORT VISIONARY SERVICE PROJECTS** IN LOCAL CHURCHES.



THE MISSION REAL ESTATE PROJECT WILL **MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS FOR HOUSING AND OTHER FACILITIES** WHILE SUPPORTING OUR CONGREGATIONS FINANCIALLY AND MISSIONALLY.



DIOCESAN-LEVEL PROJECTS TO CARE FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE, MIGRANTS, REFUGEES, AND OTHERS MIGHT LEAD US TO CREATE NEW SERVICE INITIATIVES THAT CALL TOGETHER EFFORTS ACROSS OUR DIOCESE.

It's been a challenging couple of decades in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego. But God is not finished with us yet. We believe a new era of growth in spirituality, ministry, and numbers is about to begin. With your support, we can grow our church, strengthen our congregations, and serve our neighbors. Won't you join us in God's call to Courageous Love?

HOW TO PLEDGE

The easiest way to pledge to the Courageous Love Campaign is electronically. We have introduced tools to allow you to do this safely and easily. Whether you wish to make an initial gift to the campaign or set up your pledge, visit EDSD.org/COURAGEOUS-LOVE. You will see two options: "Give Now" and "Make a Pledge." When you click on either of these, it will take you to a secure link where you can make your donation or set up your pledge quickly and safely.

To set up your pledge, visit the pledge link, and you will receive directions on how much you want to give and how frequently you wish to make payments towards your pledge. EDSD will provide quarterly statements on what has been paid and what is outstanding.

To set up ACH giving, visit the giving link and choose "Give from Bank Account." Enter your account and routing numbers and give!

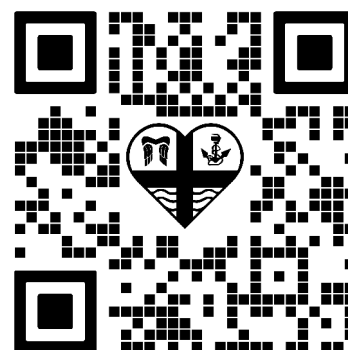
TEXT TO GIVE

If you want to give by text, now you can. You can give to the Diocese by texting GIVE to 833-256-6475.

TO PLEDGE AND GIVE BY MAIL

If you would prefer to pledge or give by mail, use the attached envelope to make your pledge. To send a check, please make it payable to the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego and mail this to:

**Episcopal Diocese of San Diego
Attn: Courageous Love Campaign
PO Box 7920
San Diego, CA 92167**



OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

There are other ways to support the campaign as well that may provide tax benefits to the donor. Stocks, bonds, and mutual funds can be committed to the Courageous Love Campaign. Always consult with your professional advisor before contacting our office. When you are ready, visit EDSD.ORG/Ways-To-Give to learn more or contact us at (619) 481-5451.

Strategic Plan Accomplishments

Not long after EDSD's strategic plan was launched, the world was halted as we addressed the COVID-19 pandemic. Even as we wrestled with the challenges this brought, the diocese began to move towards the mission set forth at the beginning of Bishop Susan's leadership. These are some of the accomplishments we wish to celebrate with you and thank God for! The world may look different now, but the gospel's message is unchangeable.

CHURCH GROWTH


WE FULFILL JESUS' GREAT COMMISSION BY INCREASING THE NUMBER OF EPISCOPALIANS IN THE DIOCESE.




TWO NEW CHURCHES STARTED IN 2023, ONE IN OCEANSIDE AND ONE OCEAN BEACH



15% OF THE DIOCESE IS ENGAGED IN MILITARY MINISTRY



TWO CONGREGATION REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS



SERVING 25 STUDENTS A WEEK THROUGH CAMPUS OUTREACH AND MEETING BETWEEN 5-10 NEW FACES WEEKLY



Strategic Plan Accomplishments

DISCIPLESHIP

WE EQUIP CONGREGATIONS TO ENABLE ALL PEOPLE TO GROW AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS THROUGH INTENTIONAL PERSONAL AND COMMUNAL PRACTICES



EDSD DIGITAL RESOURCES REACH HUNDREDS OF HOUSEHOLDS IN OUR DIOCESE



13 TEENAGERS FROM 5 CONGREGATIONS PARTICIPATED IN DIOCESAN WIDE CLASSES AND WERE CONFIRMED BY THE BISHOP



25% OF OUR CONGREGATIONS RECEIVED TRAINING ON VBS & 7 CONGREGATIONS WELCOMED FAMILIES BACK ON CAMPUS THIS SUMMER FOR VBS



59 STUDENTS FROM 14 CONGREGATIONS PARTICIPATED IN NIGHT WATCH & 33 STUDENTS FROM 6 CONGREGATIONS PARTICIPATED IN OUR PENTECOST DAY AT THE BEACH



Strategic Plan Accomplishments

EVANGELISM

WE EQUIP ALL EPISCOPALIANS TO SHARE THE LOVE OF GOD AND SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRIST WITH PEOPLE WHO MAY NOT KNOW HIM.



80 PEOPLE FROM 32 CONGREGATIONS PARTICIPATED IN EVANGELISM TRAINING



100 YOUTH PARTICIPATED IN THE FESTIVAL—THE FIRST CHURCH RELATED EVENT FOR 50% OF THEM



OVER 1,500 PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN THE GOOD NEWS FESTIVAL!



25% OF OUR CONGREGATIONS HAVE UPDATED WEBSITES & COMMUNICATIONS TOOLS

Strategic Plan Accomplishments

SERVICE

WE BUILD RELATIONSHIPS TO KNOW AND LOVE GOD AND OUR NEIGHBORS AND WORK TO MEET EACH OTHER'S NEEDS



50% OF THE DIOCESE ASSISTED REFUGEES, MIGRANTS AND ASYLUM SEEKERS



TWENTY SIX CONGREGATIONS PARTICIPATED IN COMMUNITY-WIDE SERVICE PROJECTS



FOURTEEN CONGREGATIONS PROVIDE COMMUNITY GARDENS AND FOOD PANTRIES



MORE THAN A THIRD OF THE DIOCESE IS ENGAGED IN INTERFAITH OR ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIPS

Strategic Plan Accomplishments

ADVOCACY

WE ENGAGE MORE PEOPLE IN ADVOCACY TO BRING ABOUT PEACE, JUSTICE, AND A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH ALL CREATION



22 CONGREGATIONS ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY



MORE THAN 50% OF CONGREGATIONS INVOLVED IN CREATION CARE. NINE CONGREGATIONS ARE ENGAGED IN OUR TREE PLANTING PROGRAM



EIGHT SACRED GROUND CIRCLES WITH 60 PARTICIPANTS AND 26 INDIVIDUALS HAVE GONE THROUGH ANTI-RACISM TRAINING



50% OF THE DIOCESE ASSISTED REFUGEES, MIGRANTS AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

Strategic Plan Accomplishments

LEADERSHIP

WE SEEK, INVITE, AND DEVELOP TRANSFORMATIONAL SERVANT LEADERS



49 PEOPLE ATTENDED DISCERNMENT
INFORMATION EVENTS



4 VOCATIONAL DEACONS ORDAINED



25 LAY LICENSES CERTIFIED



7 PRIESTS ORDAINED

Strategic Plan Accomplishments

STEWARDSHIP

ENERGIZED BY FAITH, WE EMPOWER CONGREGATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS TO BE CARING STEWARDS OF ALL GOD'S ABUNDANCE



20 CONGREGATIONS PARTICIPATED IN STEWARDSHIP PLANNING AND GIVING TRAINING



EDSD OFFERED 6 DISASTER TRAININGS, 19 CONGREGATIONS HAVE DISASTER PLANS



14 CONGREGATIONS ARE ENGAGED IN MISSION REAL ESTATE PROCESS



MORE THAN A DOZEN CHURCHES HAVE INSTALLED SOLAR POWER ON THEIR BUILDINGS

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is it called the Courageous Love campaign?

Christian hope is loving hope, it is courageous hope. In Jesus, God's love has been poured into our hearts, and it is God's love that we are giving to the world. Courage is an act of the heart which leads us to take action even when we are hesitant or afraid. At the beginning of her episcopacy, Bishop Susan shared a vision of courageous love for each other and our communities, resulting in a diocesan strategic plan published in 2020. Animated by the good news of Jesus Christ, the Diocese intends to be a growing, diverse, worshiping community of Jesus Christ's followers, courageously sharing God's transforming love in our neighborhoods and beyond. The Courageous Love campaign will support the efforts of our strategic plan to strengthen congregations, serve our neighbors, and grow the church.

Why is a campaign necessary?

As the diocese celebrates its 50th anniversary, we must ensure that congregations are spiritually growing and financially sustainable for the next fifty years, connecting with their neighbors and gaining new members. This campaign will assist the diocese in laying the groundwork for this.

Why are we doing this now?

Past generations looked ahead to the future and made decisions that impacted our presence in Episcopal communities today. It is our turn to do the same for future generations.

How will my congregation benefit?

We will work to strengthen congregations by equipping them for evangelism, discipleship, leadership development, community engagement, and financial sustainability. Grants for service, mission, and leadership will be available to congregations through this campaign. Additionally, this campaign intends to increase the number of faith communities in our diocese. The more Episcopalians, the more each congregation benefits. Congregations with real estate with unmet potential will be candidates for mission real estate developments.

Why shouldn't I give directly to my congregation?

We encourage you to support your congregation and this campaign. Simply put, we are better together. Much of the common programs offered by the diocese benefit congregations that could not offer these on their own. Individually, each of our congregations has certain strengths and charisms, but together we are stronger and have more potential to learn quickly from the experiences of each congregation.

How much should I give to the campaign?

Everyone has different financial circumstances. You are invited to prayerfully consider making a meaningful three-year commitment above your regular contributions to the diocese.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I pledge rather than give a one-time gift?

Of course, we gratefully accept either, but a three-year pledge allows us to make long-term plans for the long-term future of our diocese.

How will my gift be collected?

You can set up online giving or mail a routine check towards your pledge.

What methods of payment are accepted?

The easiest way to give a gift to Courageous Love is by electronically pledging to the campaign. If you want to make payments by check, mail these to PO Box 7920 San Diego, CA 92167. You will receive periodic updates on your pledge commitments.

Can I make a matching gift with my employer?

EDSD welcomes matching gifts if your employer offers them for religious contributions! Please get in touch with your employer's human resources department to determine if they have a matching gift program.

What if I am unable to fulfill my commitment?

Pledges are not legally binding. If you need to change your pledge amount or payment options, don't hesitate to contact our Development Office at (619) 481-5451.

What will these funds be used for?

The Courageous Love fund will support the efforts of our strategic plan to strengthen congregations, serve our neighbors, and grow the church, resulting in the growth and development of our congregations and long-term financial sustainability through the wise use of congregational assets.

What if I am passionate about something specific?

The Courageous Love campaign has several aims, but it is one fund. These aims impact each other. No matter which of these areas excites you, your gift will support your interest. When we serve our neighbors, our congregations discover new members. By housing our neighbors, we generate income for our congregations. When we start new ministries, we are introduced to future leaders of our church whom we may not have met otherwise.

Will there be reporting on the campaign?

Yes. The bishop will offer an annual campaign report at diocesan convention. Pledgers will also be invited to routine donor updates hosted virtually for your convenience.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the cost of running the campaign?

The Courageous Love campaign aims to raise \$2.5M towards our vision. The campaign expenditures are estimated at \$19,000 or .76% of the total amount raised.

Other questions?

Please contact us at (619) 481-5451.





EDSD

COURAGEOUS LOVE



EDSD.ORG/COURAGEOUS-LOVE