



Pastoral Opportunity – Harvest OPC (San Marcos, California)

Harvest Orthodox Presbyterian Church in San Marcos, California, is seeking a full-time pastor to shepherd our 100+ member congregation in north San Diego County.

Harvest OPC exists to worship our transcendent and gracious God, proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, and encourage the saints through Word, sacrament, prayer, and fellowship. We are a confessional Reformed church with a strong commitment to reverent worship, robust preaching and teaching, and genuine hospitality. The congregation is financially stable, debt-free, and eager to grow under faithful pastoral leadership.

We are seeking a man who demonstrates pastoral strengths in preaching, leading worship, counseling, shepherding, and evangelism. Candidates should be licensed or ordained in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church or another NAPARC denomination.

Interested men are invited to send a Ministerial Information Form (or similar statement of personal life and philosophy of ministry) to HarvestPSC@hopc.org. Sample sermons, references, or other supporting materials are also welcome.

To learn more about Harvest OPC, please see the attached church profile or visit HOPC.org.



Church Profile

Introduction



Harvest Orthodox Presbyterian Church is a confessional, Reformed, Presbyterian church that exists to worship God, spread the gospel, and encourage the saints in North San Diego County.

Our transcendent God is incomprehensible in his majesty and worthy of all honor and worship. He is also our immanent God who bids us come to find rest for our weary souls. As he calls us into his heavenly throne room each Lord's day, we seek to convey both of these realities in our worship service. As such, the service is intentional in its structure and warm in its care for the people.

Because we believe biblical and theological education is important, Harvest has a robust Sunday School program. We currently have six classes for ages two through high school as well as one adult class.

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Harvest is a church known for its hospitality. The people are good about welcoming one another into their homes and inviting visitors to have a meal. We also have gatherings for prayer and study during the week.

Being only eight miles from Westminster Seminary California has provided Harvest with a steady supply of seminary students. We have had many interns over the years, and being a church that assists in evaluating and training men for ministry is an important part of our connection to the OPC. Some of our past interns include Lane Tipton, Mike Voytek, Ben Wickner, Eric Watkins, Phil Holstein, John Carter, Mark Jenkins, Ken Montgomery, Jesse Perschel, Chris Hartshorn, Joseph Pollard, Mason Depew, Matt Prather, Frank Liu, Austin Britton, Matthew Cotta, Jason Vartanian, and Christian Repp.

Harvest is an active member of the regional church in Southern California, Arizona, and Hawaii. The closest congregations to us are pictured in the map.

Our presbytery is growing, with several new church plants and more possibilities being identified, especially in coastal North San Diego County.



History

Harvest Orthodox Presbyterian Church began as a mission work in 1986. A number of families from New Life OPC in Escondido, California were sent out under the leadership of Greg Price with the purpose of establishing a daughter church in San Marcos, California. When New Life decided to realign with the PCA, the San Marcos congregation elected to remain in the OPC and their leadership was transferred to Bayview OPC in Chula Vista, California. Eventually two men were elected to be elders and the session was augmented by elders from Bayview OPC.

By 1990 worship attendance at San Marcos OPC had reached around 100. A year later the local economy was impacted by a recession, causing many in the congregation to move away and attendance dwindled to fewer than forty people. When Pastor Price's failing health required an extended leave of absence, he recommended that a full-time replacement be found. One of the men preaching in the interim was Mark Schroeder, an associate pastor at New Life OPC in Point Loma, California.

In 1993 the congregation voted unanimously to have Mark Schroeder as pastor of the mission work. The year following Pastor Schroeder's installation was a time of reorganization and growth. A deacon was installed and began a ministry of mercy. By the end of 1994, attendance grew into the eighties, with families from around North San Diego County. Our name was then changed from San Marcos OPC to Harvest OPC, reflecting our desire to impact the entire community with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In 1995 we found a larger worship facility at a Seventh-Day Adventist church in Vista, California. This relocation resulted in yet another decline in attendance, leading to fervent prayers for God to bring people in. A local newspaper featured an article about Harvest OPC, and many personal contacts were made. Gradually, new families began to attend, and God's work was increasingly evident.

The Presbytery of Southern California generously supported this mission work for nine years. Having been brought through many trials, Harvest OPC was finally able, by God's grace, to support itself financially at the end of 1995. With godly men in leadership, Harvest was received by the Presbytery of Southern California as an organized

congregation of the OPC. At the service of recognition on December 3, 1995, many who had labored long in this mission work joined together in thankfulness for God's faithful care of His people.

The Lord continued to add to the congregation, including

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the installation of several more elders and deacons. As the need for a permanent place of worship arose, members donated generously to a building fund. In 2007 a building was purchased in San Marcos in the same location where Harvest began as a mission work. The building required major renovation to accommodate worship services. A member who was a building contractor with exceptional talents became leader of the project. He was none other than Pastor Schroeder's father, who donated his labor and expertise to transform the building into a welcoming place of worship. During the many months of construction, other members volunteered their time and helped along the way.

The first worship service at our new church building in San Marcos was held on September 21, 2008. Reflecting on God's faithfulness through the years of transition, our hearts overflowed with thankfulness. Having a permanent place of worship has given us many more opportunities for fellowship and outreach. Through wise stewardship and generous giving, the building loan was paid off in 2018.

By God's grace we reached our 25th year as an organized congregation and can only marvel at the way God has purposed to bring glory to His name. We were blessed by Pastor Schroeder's faithful ministry followed by the fruitful work of Rev. Dr. Eric Watkins. Our church continues to be led by men of wisdom and discretion including associate pastor Rev. Dr. Craig Troxel. As we worship God and serve Him together in love, we are always looking for opportunities to tell others of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ.

Ministries & Activities

Harvest seeks to maintain a focus on the centrality of Lord's Day worship while providing adequate opportunities for edification and outreach. Current or typical events:

- Morning and Evening Worship on the Lord's Day
- Celebrating the Lord's Supper Every First and Third Sabbath of Each Month (and the Occasional Fifth)
- Weekly Prayer Meeting
- Bimonthly Fellowship Lunches
- Sunday School Classes for Various Age Groups
- Midweek Women's Bible Study
- Monthly Men's Breakfast and Study
- Curated Library
- Women's Fellowship and Event Organizing



Other Seasonal Events

- Vacation Bible School
- Memorial Day Picnic
- Talent Show or Concerts
- Beach Days Every Friday in Summer
- Annual Beach Bonfire
- Reformation Day Celebration
- Thanksgiving Harvest Dinner and Expressional Service
- Christmas Eve Service and Festivities

Harvest also maintains a close relationship with Alternatives Medical Clinic a faith-based crisis pregnancy care center in Escondido.

Demographics



106

Total Communicant Members

29

Total Baptized Members



43

Avg. Age of Communicants

34

*Number of Children
Aged 17 and Under*



127

Avg. Morning Worship Attendance



74

Avg. Evening Worship Attendance

51

Avg. Sunday School Attendance

Presbytery

The Presbytery of Southern California (PSC) is a presbytery of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. The PSC was founded in 1964 when the Presbytery of California grew large enough to be split into two presbyteries. Today, the presbytery has 27 churches and 7 mission works in Southern California, Arizona, and Hawaii. Stated meetings of the presbytery are held in February (1st Friday), May (1st Friday), and October (3rd Friday).



North San Diego County

Harvest OPC is in the City of San Marcos, California, and draws from a wide area of North San Diego County. Over half the members live in San Marcos, Escondido, or Vista, with most of the rest living in Fallbrook, Oceanside or Carlsbad.

Growing almost 70% since the year 2000, San Marcos now has a population of almost 95,000 residents. Educational opportunities available for grade school and high school in the area include public, private, and charter schools (from technology to classical education and more) as well as a variety of homeschool co-ops and support groups.

Harvest is located within a few miles of California State University San Marcos and Palomar Community College which provide classes for over 36,000 students combined. Taking advantage of this unique opportunity in our own backyard, Harvest has supported campus ministries and continues to pray for our members as they bear witness to the gospel of Christ at their colleges.



While not as expensive as some other areas in San Diego County, housing around the church is still more expensive than most parts of the country. Harvest understands this and is prepared to provide down payment assistance and a housing allowance to make it possible for our new pastor to live close to the church.

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The median home value in San Marcos is \$986,007. San Marcos home values have gone up 10.9% over the past year and Zillow predicts they will continue to rise in the next year. The median price of homes currently listed in San Marcos is \$1,037,483 while the median price of homes that sold is \$864,167. The median rent price in San Marcos is \$3,450.

Located just 17 miles from San Diego beaches, San Marcos has an industrious planned growth program with new housing projects and city infrastructure that will continue to make it an attractive place to live. For pictures and more information, see these links:

[BestPlaces.net — San Marcos, CA](#)

[10 Reasons to Live in San Marcos, CA](#)

[About the City of San Marcos, CA](#)

Financials

The Lord has blessed Harvest with great financial stability through a congregation of generous givers. The church owns our building and is debt-free as of 2019. We also have significant savings for building maintenance, possible expansion, and potential church planting. We have a very good relationship with our long-term tenant, a Montessori school, which provides extra income to our budget.

Harvest also has a long history of careful financial planning. We ensure our pastor and his family are well provided for with a personal and realistic compensation package. We consistently stay within the operating budget and give a generous portion of our income to presbytery missions and Worldwide Outreach.

Current financial statements are available upon request.



Contact

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🌐 HOPC.org

🎙️ *Harvest OPC sermons can be heard
at HOPC.org and SermonAudio.com.*